

L E T T E R S

TO AND FROM THE

EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S SERVANTS,

At BENGAL, Fort St. GEORGE, and BOMBAY;

RELATIVE TO

Treaties and Grants from the Country Powers, from the year 1756
to 1766, both Years inclusive:

ALSO

A Letter from the Nabob of Arcot to the Company, and the Company's
Answer:

WITH AN

A P P E N D I X,

CONSISTING OF

Four Papers relative to the Company's late Bargain with Government.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ALMON, opposite Burlington-house, in Piccadilly;
P. ELMSLY, in the Strand; and BROTHERTON and
SEWELL, in Cornhill.

M.DCC.LXXII.

L E T T E R S

TO AND FROM THE

EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S
SERVANTS,

AT BENGAL, Fort St. GEORGE, and BOMBAY;



Treaties and Grants from the Company's Servants, from the year 1756 to 1760, both years inclusive.

A Letter from the Nabob of Arcot to the Company, and the Company's Answer:

WITH AN

A P P E N D I X,

CONSISTING OF

Four Papers relative to the Company's late Bargain with Government.

L O N D O N,

Printed for J. A. Mann, opposite Burlington-house, in Piccadilly;
R. Baskerville, in the Strand; and Baskerville and
Sawell, in Cornhill.

MDCCLXXII.

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~~Select Committee, dated Feb. 11, 1757.~~
~~PARAGRAPH 13.~~

ON the 19th of May, the treaty being engrossed in the manner Mr. Watts had requested, it was signed and sealed by the Agents and members of the committee.
From that time to the 11th of June the Colonel received several letters from Mr. Watts, containing in the opinion we had conceived of the Nabob's reply to Mr. Watts's march this way and extirpate the English. These letters likewise gave us the particulars of our negotiation with the Nabob, who, on the 11th of June, signed, sealed, and returned the picket of the treaty to the Nabob, and to perform punctually the agreement on his part as soon as he was in possession of the Subahship.

PARAGRAPH 14. Mr. Watts, on the 11th of June, arrived at the French gardens, where we attended the committee, and had the treaty in Persian executed by the Nabob's order, and by the above-mentioned person, who gave us the greatest assurances of his friendship and esteem for the English, that we could desire.

GENERAL LETTER, dated February 23, 1757.
This difference in sending a change of government, and that we

PARAGRAPH 3.

ON the 14th instant the select committee laid before us articles of a treaty of peace they had concluded with the Subah the 10th, and translate of the agreement they had executed on behalf of the English; copies of both are enclosed for your observation. We beg leave to congratulate your honours on this speedy and happy conclusion of our disturbances, upon terms so extremely advantageous to the Company.

By the enclosed translate of the treaty made with Jaffer Ally Khan, you will observe the advantages attending to the Company by the change. We have the further pleasure to inform you that the Subah acquiesces in his engagements to our entire satisfaction.

SELECT

SELECT COMMITTEE'S LETTER, dated July 14, 1757.

PARAGRAPH 13.

ON the 19th of May, the treaty being engrossed in the manner Mr. Watts had requested, it was signed and sealed by the Admiral and the members of the committee.

PAR. 14. From that time to the 11th of June the Colonel received several letters from Mr. Watts, confirming us in the opinion we had conceived of the Nabob writing to Mons. Buffy to march this way and extirpate the English. These letters likewise gave a detail of the progress of our negotiation with Jaffier Ally Khan, who, on the 5th ultimo, signed, sealed, and solemnly swore, in the presence of Mr. Watts, to abide by the treaty he had made with the English, and to perform punctually the agreement on his part, as soon as he was in possession of the Subahship.

PAR. 15. Mirza Omar Beg, on the 11th ultimo, arrived at the French gardens, where we assembled the committee, and had the treaty in Persian, executed by Jaffier Ally Khan, delivered us by the above-mentioned person, who gave us the greatest assurances of his friendship and esteem for the English; that there would be very little difficulty in effecting a change of government, and that we might depend upon it, Jaffier Ally Khan would be punctual in performing every article of his agreement.

GENERAL LETTER, August 20, 1757.

PARAGRAPH 19.

BY the inclosed translate of the treaty made with Jaffier Ally Khan, you will observe the advantages redounding to the Company by the change. We have the further pleasure to inform you, that the Subah acquits himself of his engagements to our entire satisfaction;

faction; that his Sunnud is extremely full, and greater immunities allowed the Company in it than the Firman specifies, and that the privilege of our mint is much more extensive than the Perwannah granted for that purpose by Serajah Dowla.

GENERAL LETTER, *January 10, 1758.*

PARAGRAPH 83.

THAT article of the treaty made with Jaffer Ally Khan, relating to the Company's holding the Zemindary of all the lands to the southward of Calcutta, as far down as Culpee, being very inexplicit, as it did not specify the extent of our possessions to the eastward, we wrote to the gentlemen at Moorshadabad, and desired they would get that part of the treaty explained, to prevent future disputes. This has been done by those gentlemen, and we find the Company are to hold all the lands to the southward of Calcutta (as far as Culpee) lying between the river to the west, and the Great Lake to the eastward, whose course the gentlemen at Moorshadabad recommended to us to get traced by an able person, and a plan made of the scite of our territories, with the villages it contained, number of inhabitants, nature of the country, &c.

PAR. 95. Messrs. Verelst and Smyth, under date of the 17th of September, informed the board that the weavers from all parts of their neighbourhood were daily requesting permission to settle and reside under our protection; but that the bounds round their factory not being sufficient to accomodate any great number, they offered to our consideration the renting of Luckipore Purgannahs, the annual rent of which is only eight hundred rupees, and the revenues collected even from the Ryotts now on the island, will more than reimburse that charge.

PAR. 96. The proposal before-mentioned being considered, and there appearing a probability of great advantage arising to the Company from it in future, we addressed the gentlemen at Moorshadabad.

Shadabad upon the subject, and desired them to apply for the rent of those Pergannahs, which we have the pleasure to hear from Mr. Scrafton has been obtained, and a Pervannah delivered him for the Company, and their successors to hold it of the government, on paying annually the sum of Sicca rupees, one thousand one hundred and seven (1107) into the Nabob's treasury. As soon as we receive this Pervannah, we shall forward it to the gentlemen of Luckipore, and direct to make the best use they are able of the grant, for the advantage of our employers, by encouraging as great a number of the weavers as they can to reside within our bounds, and manufacturing as large a part of our investment as they can, under their own immediate inspection.

GENERAL LETTER, dated December 31, 1758.

PARAGRAPH 67.

WHILE the army was in the neighbourhood of Patna, Mr. Amyatt and his counsel requested Colonel Clive would apply to the Nabob to grant the Company an exclusive Pervannah for the purchase of Petre on the same terms as Coja Wazerd had enjoyed it for some years past, which Pervannah, Colonel Clive obtained of the Nabob, with great difficulty, as he imagined it would be perpetuating the grant, if given in the Company's name: and we have reason to believe, that nothing but his fear of the English, and the assistance he might have occasion to demand of us (in case of any exigency) induced him to comply with our petition for that grant. The Company are to pay annually to the Nabob 15,000 rupees for this exclusive privilege, and are to supply the Nabob with 20,000 maunds of Petre on the same terms as we buy it for.

PARR. 84. You were informed last year of the directions we had given Mr. Scrafton to apply for the Zemindary of the Luckipore Pergannah, and our reasons for so doing: a Sunnud has accordingly been

been obtained for that Purgannah, which contains 237 connies of ground of 300 covids long, and 250 broad, agreeable to a measurement made by the gentlemen of that factory, which yields an annual revenue of 2755 rupees, according to the present rents paid by the farmers and Riotts; exclusive of the above ground they have about 700 connies more in Jungal, which they expect will be entirely cleared and settled with inhabitants by the next season; but as this is done at the expence of the Riotts themselves, the gentlemen at Luckipore have indulged them in giving up their rents for two years. They inform us the Company will reap a benefit by their nearest computation by the ground-rent alone, of upwards of 10,000 rupees *per annum*, when the Jungal is entirely cleared away, and the ground cultivated. They further acquaint us, that in order to encourage the weavers to settle in the Company's bounds, they have stated their ground-rent at a more moderate price than is paid in other parts of the country round them, the good effect of which they have already experienced by a great number of weavers coming into their districts; and they give us hopes, that in a season or two, the greatest part of the investment at that factory will be manufactured within their own bounds.

PAR. 222. We have the pleasure to inform you, that the transactions of the English in these provinces have met with approbation at the Mogul's court; at that our President has received a *Sumud* from Delhi, constituting him a *Mumtazdar* of 6000 in rank, and 5000 horse in power: translate of this *Sumud* is forwarded by the Select Committee, in their country correspondence.

PAR. 223. We shall duly attend to your orders for getting our privileges confirmed by the Mogul, if a favourable opportunity offers for obtaining such a *Firmaun*, and it can be done without any great expence.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S LETTER, *December 31, 1758.*

PARAGRAPH 9.

THE success in Bengal has acquired us so great a reputation at the court of Delhi, that the Vizier has several times addressed himself to the President, to use his interest with the Subah to comply with the royal mandate in paying the revenues due to the Mogul from his Subahship; and you will observe, in the Book of Correspondence, by letters from Shitabroy, the Vizier's agent, that the court is extremely desirous of appointing the President the collector of this revenue, amounting to fifty lacks of rupees annually. The person invested with this employ, who is stiled the King's Duan, is the second man in rank in the kingdom: such a dignity annexed to your Presidency would give extraordinary weight to the Company in the empire, the which nothing could be able to remove. However, though repeated proposals have been made to the President, yet, at this critical conjuncture, he has been under the necessity of evading them, and managing his answers in such a manner as to protract time in the expectation of a more favourable opportunity. The accepting this employ might occasion jealousy on the part of the Subah, and we are unwilling to cause him any dissatisfaction, at a time when our small force is engaged another way, especially as you, Gentlemen, give us so little hopes of reinforcements from home.

GENERAL LETTER, *March 5, 1759.*

PARAGRAPH 9.

ON the face of the consultation of the 26 ultimo, you will observe a translation of the Sunnud for the lands, as also of the terms made use of in it, to which we beg leave to refer you.

GENERAL

GENERAL LETTER, *December 29, 1759.*

PARAGRAPH 136.

THE Mogul having conferred on Colonel Clive the honour of Munsubdarry, the Subah of these provinces, from a sense of the very eminent services rendered him by Colonel Clive, particularly on his late expedition to the northward, has thought proper to present him with the annual rent of those lands, which were before paid to himself agreeable to treaty. This will be more particularly explained to you by a copy of the Nabob's Firmaun for this grant entered after our consultations of the 6th of September, in consequence of which we have paid to Colonel Clive, what was before paid the Subah, and shall continue in future to account with him instead of the government.

GENERAL LETTER, *November 10, 1760.*

PARAGRAPH I.

WE take the opportunity of a foreign conveyance, to advise you of a revolution effected in the Subahship of Bengal in favour of Meer Mahomed Cossim Ally Khan; for the reason why, and the manner in which this negociation was carried on, we beg leave to refer you to the select committee, and shall here enumerate, in a few words, the great advantages resulting from this change of government.

PAR. 2. Besides a confirmation of the treaty made with Jaffier Ally Khan, and the payment of the balance of that Nabob's debt to us, are the following new acquisitions.

First, The possession of the countries of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, in full right, to be managed by us as we shall think most advantageous to our employers.

Secondly,

Secondly, The grant of half the Chunam provided at Silhet for three years to come, to be paid for at the prime cost.

Thirdly, A present of five lacks of rupees to be sent to the Presidency of Fort St. George, in order to support the war against our enemies on that coast; and this is a voluntary gift of the new Subah, exclusive of the agreement.

Fourthly, A renewal, in the strictest terms, of the order of the government for the currency of the Calcutta Siccas, from the interruption of which, during the late Nabob's time, we found so great inconvenience, and there is much reason to think with his connivance and even encouragements.

PAR. 4. We have already received Perwannahs for the possession of the new districts, and appointed a chief and council for the province of Chittagong.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S LETTER, *November 12, 1760.*

PARAGRAPH 5.

BY the ships which we hope to dispatch in December, we shall give you a full and particular description of the situation of the affairs of the Company, and of the country. By this conveyance we can only inform you, that our own distresses and those of the government were so great, that an immediate remedy was absolutely necessary. The enclosed copy of the treaty made with Cossim Ally Khan, will shew the advantages and benefits which have been obtained for the Company, exclusive of a voluntary present to them of five lacks of rupees. The Perwannahs for the lands we have already received, and servants are appointed to proceed and take possession of them in the name of the Company. What the annual revenue may be, we cannot pretend precisely to determine at present, but hope to give you a near calculation by your own ships.

GENERAL

GENERAL LETTER, dated November 12, 1761.

PARAGRAPH 56.

THE first thing that occurs under this head, is the proclamation of Shah Allum (formerly known by the name of the Shah Zadah) as King of Delphi. He remained at Patna till the beginning of June, and was extremely desirous of having a body of English forces accompany him to his capital: but as we were uncertain of Colonel Coote's regiment coming down from the coast, and the security of your possessions in Bengal was first to be regarded, we found it impossible to spare a sufficient detachment for undertaking so distant and so important a service. The King, therefore, being pressed by his relations at Delhi to proceed thither with all expedition, and Shujah Dowla the Nabob of Oude, whom he has appointed his Vizier, having advanced to the borders of this province, to meet him, he determined not to wait longer for our assistance. The Nabob supplied him with considerable sums of money during his residence at Patna, and at the time of his departure caused Siccas to be struck in his name throughout these provinces, of which having advised the President, it was agreed that the Siccas in the name of Shah Allum, should also be struck in our mint on the 15th of July, which was accordingly done, the usual notice being first given. Shah Allum is not however as yet generally acknowledged, the late Vizier Gauze ô Din Khan, has engaged some of the chiefs of the empire in his party, and has formed a considerable army to oppose the King and Shujah Dowla on their way to Delhi.

PAR. 57. We hope, however, that none of the contending parties will return this way, and that Bengal will continue to enjoy a state of tranquillity. By the Nabob's letter to the President, which he laid before the board the 12th of October, we are advised of his having received from Shah Allum the Sunnuds for the three provinces.

PAR. 58. We directed Major Carnac and Mr. M'Guire, to apply, as soon as Shah Allum should be acknowledged King, for Sunnuds for the Company's possessions and privileges in Bengal, viz. the Zemindary of the Purgannahs granted by the late Nabob Jaffier Ally Khan, the Jaghires of the provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, granted by the present Nabob, and the confirmation of the freedom of our mint. We directed also application to be made, at the same time, for the Sunnuds for the province, of Arcot, in the name of the Nabob Ally Verdi Khan, otherwise called Mahomed Ally Khan, with whom we have been so long allied. These requests were made by Major Carnac, who was detached by Colonel Coote, to escort the King to the borders of the provinces and the King wrote upon the papers of requests that they should be granted whenever a proper Peshcush or tribute was remitted. The Major transmitted to us copies of the said papers of requests, with the King's superscription, and advised us, at the same time, that the King had offered to confer on the Company the Dewannee of Bengal, on condition of our being answerable for the royal revenues; but as we are sensible that our accepting of this post would cause jealousy and ill-will between us and the Nabob, we thought it more prudent to decline it, all which you will observe more fully in our consultation of the 4th of July.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S LETTER, *November 13, 1761.*

MOST of the late transactions with the King and Nabob have come before the council. The chief thing we have to inform you of relating to the King is, that on the 6th of June, he left Patna, to join Shujah Dowla, and was, by his particular request, escorted to the banks of the Caramnassor by a detachment of Europeans and Seapoys under the command of Major John Carnac, where, upon his arrival, he was joined by Shujah Dowla, and Major Carnac returned.

The

The King having several times earnestly pressed the Nabob to read the Khotbah and strike Siccas in his name, it was accordingly accomplished on the 29th, and the Shah Zadah was proclaimed King by the name of Shah Allum; on the same day, the usual ceremonies were performed and he proclaimed King here, at Moorshadabad. Since his departure from the Caramnassa, we have not any very distinct account of him, all we have learnt is, that he halted some time on this side of Bananass, that he afterwards proceeded towards Agra, and that Gause ô Din-Khan was drawing together a body of people into that city, and by his repairing the fortifications, it was imagined intended opposing his entrance.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *September 29, 1763.*

PARAGRAPH 34.

AT the consultation of the 6th of July the gentlemen of the committee delivered in a set of articles for forming a treaty upon with Meer Jaffier, and these having been amended and approved of, a deputation from the board was appointed to wait on Meer Jaffier, and acquaint him with the resolution in his favour, as also of the substance of the said articles, as soon as they should be wrote out in proper form. And we therefore, on the 7th of July, drew up a paper which contained at the same time a declaration of war against Cossim Ally Khan, and a proclamation of Meer Jaffier as Nazim of the three provinces.

PAR. 35. This proclamation was publickly read the 8th, and the treaty after undergoing some alterations, at the request of the Nabob, for the reasons mentioned in consultation of the 9th of July, was reduced into form, and signed by the parties on the 10th of said month; the most material articles, being those which ascertained to us an unlimited trade in the country, free of customs, of all commodities, excepting salt, upon which we agreed to pay two and a half *per cent*, stipulated the sum of thirty lacks of rupees for reimbursement.

bursement of the Company's losses, and the expences of the war, and promised indemnification for the losses of all private merchants residing under our protection. For the more particular subject of the first proposed articles, the alterations made therein as abovementioned, and of the definitive treaty as it now stands, we beg leave to refer you to the consultations of the 6th, 9th and 11th of July, in which they are entered at large. A copy of the proclamation and treaty are likewise sent in the packet.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *December 19, 1763.*

WHILST the war was carrying on between us, and Cossim Ally Khan, the king and Shujah Dowla advanced with their army within a day's march of Banaras, and sent a detachment under Beny Bahadre, one of their principal officers, to that city, Shujah Dowla wrote to the Nabob, and the President and Major Adams, that he was coming with an intention of assisting our arms against Cossim Ally Khan, but we, unwilling to give him any encouragement to enter these provinces, wrote him in answer, that our forces were more than sufficient to defeat all our enemies, and only desired his assistance for securing Cossim Ally Khan with his effects, if he should make his flight that way.

PAR. 9. The continued success of our arms produced replies to these letters, which contained still further assurances of Shujah Dowla's friendship, with promises of any grants and privileges that we might ask from the King, and a proposal that we should send a gentleman to the court to treat for them, as we think it will be useful and necessary to have more perfect accounts of the proceedings and views of Shujah Dowla, and his connections with the other chiefs of the empire, and as his dominions border on those of Bengal a defensive alliance would be for our mutual interest; and we have assured him of our readiness to enter into such an alliance, and have determined to send a gentleman to him, as soon as we are satisfied it can

can be done with safety, and any prospect of advantage to your affairs or the Bengal provinces.

PAR. 10. We have appointed Mr. Marriot for this embassy, but we shall not hastily enter into articles that may extend our connections beyond Bengal, the maintaining the tranquility of which shall always be our principal object, and the forming new alliances only considered in a secondary light to that.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *September 27, 1764.*

PARAGRAPH 17.

WE have found it absolutely necessary, from the experience of the last campaign, to keep in our service a body of horse sufficient to secure our army against the distresses to which they must otherwise be exposed by the cavalry of the enemy; one or two troops of European cavalry will by no means answer this purpose, as we acquainted you in our advices of last season, but that it is judged that two or three thousand good country horse may be so disposed, under the conduct of European officers, as effectually to cover our army from being alarmed and harrassed, although the number of the enemy may exceed them tenfold, which is at present the case with Shujah Dowla: therefore as the Nabob has none in his pay, that can be depended on for this service, we have come to the resolution of raising two thousand (2000) of the best country horse at Patna, and ordering the officers lately belonging to the European cavalry to do duty with them.

PAR. 18. But as by these additional forces we have taken upon us, in a manner, the entire defence of the three provinces, and relieved the Nabob from the greatest part of his military charges, it is just that he should provide for this encrease of expence, by further assignments out of the revenues of the country.

PAR. 19. It was of great consequence to settle this point with the Nabob as soon as possible, the regulation and restriction of the inland trade, conformably to the intent of your commands of the

8th of February, was another point necessary to be adjusted with the Nabob, whose complaints on that subject have been very frequent ; and a third point was a provision for the reimbursement of the losses of the merchants in the late war.

PAR. 20. Having prevailed upon the Nabob, to come to Calcutta, to regulate these affairs, he set out from Patna the latter end of July, and arrived here the 2d of this month. After many conferences it was at length agreed, that he should pay five lacks of rupees a month, for the support of our extraordinary expences, so long as it shall be necessary for the security of the country to keep us such a number of forces. Of these, two lacks are to be paid at Patna, and three at Cossimbuzar, the payments to commence from the 1st of August last, as it was in the course of that month that Major Munro began to take into the service the before-mentioned body of horse.

PAR. 21. We have also regulated the payment of the restitution to the merchants, and are now employed in putting the private trade under such restrictions as we flatter ourselves will prevent any further complaints from the country government, and fulfil the purpose of your commands on this subject.

PAR. 22. Upon the whole, we hope to transmit to your Honours by the first ship from hence, a well regulated system for conducting all those matters which concern your connections with the country government, such a one as may give a future prospect of lasting tranquility to these provinces.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *November 26, 1764.*

PARAGRAPH I.

BY the general advices transmitted to you by the way of Madras, under date the 27th of September last, you were informed of the invasion of these provinces by Shujah Dowla, of the repulse he met with on the 3d of May in an attack upon our army, then entrenched near the walls of the city of Patna, and of his retiring, towards the
end

end of that month, back over the Soane, and taking up his quarters at Buxar; you were informed likewise of our resolution to attack him there, if he did not retire before the breaking up of the rains, and comply with our other demands.

PAR. 2. The King Shah Allum, accompanied Shujah Dowla in this expedition, professing at the same time an entire disapprobation of the measure, and when the Nabob came down to Calcutta, Shitabroy who was formerly employed in negotiating between us and the King (then the Shah Zadah) came along with him, and brought letters from the King and Shujah Dowla, expressing a great desire to enter into a friendly negotiation with us, and proposing that we should send one or more gentlemen to their court for that purpose, and direct the commanding officer of our army to refrain from hostilities. The Nabob and Shitabroy very much pressed our compliance with this overture, but as we apprehended that such a condescension on our part, while Shujah Dowla remained in arms on this side the Caramnassa, instead of tending to procure us the satisfaction we had a right to expect, would serve rather to feed his pride, and encourage him to prolong the war, we therefore gave him for answer, in plain and friendly terms, that while he continued with his army within the limits of the Bengal provinces, and gave protection to the murderers of our friends, we could put no trust in any of his professions, nor think of sending gentlemen to treat with him. We determined not to suffer ourselves to be amused by this proposal, but to pursue with firmness the advantage we hoped our army might gain by taking the field early, and accordingly when we acquainted Major Munro with the substance of Shujah Dowla's letters, and our answers; we directed him not to pay the least regard to this negotiation, but to continue his preparations with the same diligence as before, and open the campaign as soon as he conveniently could; and in case of Shujah Dowla's advancing towards Patna, we gave it as our opinion that he would have an advantageous opportunity of attacking him while he was attempting to cross the Soane: but if, on the other hand, Shujah Dowla kept his station at Buxar, we advised that he should march and attack him.

there, and prosecute the war against him with the utmost vigour, until he was brought to submit to the reasonable terms which we demanded.

PAR. 7. This victory has proved so compleat and decisive that our troops meet with no further opposition. Major Munro, in consequence of our directions, that he should prosecute the war against Shujah Dowla, in the most effectual manner, to force him to a compliance with our terms, is on his march through Gauzepoor, a part of Shujah Dowla's dominions, towards Banaras, and we cannot too much commend his care in keeping the troops in order, and securing the inhabitants of the country through which he passes, from the ruin and devastation which is commonly seen on such occasions. Shujah Dowla himself has fled to Illiabad, the King with Beny Bahadre, Shujah Dowla's principal officer, are at Banaras, from whence they have sent letters to the President, and to Major Munro, offering their allegiances, and desiring to know what are our terms. Having fully considered this subject, in consultation the 6th of November, we resolved in the first place, to insist on the performance of the conditions we have demanded from the beginning, viz. The delivery of Meer Cofsim, Sombre and our deserters; and in consideration of the risk and expences of the war, as well as to assert our superiority, we determine to keep possession of the country as far as Banaras, and to apply the revenues to your benefit. If Shujah Dowla will comply with these terms, we shall be ready to enter into an agreement with him, so far as that he shall not assist our enemies nor we his; if he still holds out, we shall favour the designs of his competitors, and do our utmost to drive him out of his dominions, and give the possession of them to the King, or to some other who shall be named by him.

PAR. 8. Our view in requiring this cession of territory from Shujah Dowla, is more to give a publick testimony to all the powers of India of the success of our arms and the unjust war he commenced against us, than the encrease of revenue it may bring. We do not wish to extend our connections beyond what may appear necessary for securing the future tranquility of these provinces, which is the first object of

our

our consideration; and if we enter into any further engagements they shall be such as tend to that point.

PAR. 9. If we were to be guided by the law of retaliation, we might, with great justice, refuse to hearken to any terms from Shujah Dowla; he entered the province with so high an opinion of his own strength that he scrupled not to make the most extravagant demands.—In his first letter, which is entered upon our consultation of the 26th of April, he requires us, in the most haughty terms, to withdraw all our forces from the country, and send them back to Europe. Afterwards, while he lay encamped near Patna, he demanded the surrender of the three provinces, which he said the King had granted to his son; and when he found he was not likely to meet with the success he had at first flattered himself with the hopes of, he contented himself with insisting upon the cession of the province of Bahar. We answered to all these demands, that under the name of Protector of the King's country he was himself the greatest destroyer; that we would defend our own rights and those of the Nabob, with whom we are allied; and that we trusted, in the event, we should free the King from the restraint in which he had kept him for some years for his own purposes; and concluded with warning him, that we should carry the war out of this country into his.

PAR. 10. He has seen, to his misfortune, our declarations verified; and with this experience, if he submits to the terms we have demanded, and a peace is concluded with him, we think it will be his care in future to live in friendship with us.

PAR. 13. The Nabob is yet here, and we have recommended to him to remain until the arrival of Lord Clive, that he may be on the spot to confer upon any alterations that may become necessary in our intended plan for limiting the private trade, or any fresh points of business that may occur in consequence of your expected instructions by the Kent. He has given the necessary orders to his officers at Patna, and Moorshadabad for the discharge of the five lacks per month for our extraordinary military expences, as more particu-

larly mentioned in our address of the 27th of September last, paragraphs 16 to 20.—The chiefs of Patna and Cossimbuzar factories, have in charge to receive this money from the Nabob's officers, and we have been advised that the payments for August and September have been fully discharged at both places.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *January 3, 1765.*

PARAGRAPH 1.

OUR last address, bearing date 26th November, was transmitted by the ship Devonshire directly from hence, and we now embrace opportunity by the Caernarvon and his Majesty's ship Medway, Via Fort St. George, to give you information of what has since occurred in the prosecution of the war against Shujah Dowla, reserving other points to be advised by our next ship from this place which we imagine will arrive with you nearly as soon as these.

PAR. 2. Major Munro having continued his march towards Banaras, found the King and Beny Bahadre still there on his arrival, and received our letters of the 6th of November, prior to which some messages had passed between him and the former; and he had had an interview with Beny Bahadre, when he positively acquainted him, that before any accommodation could take place with Shujah Dowla, Sombre, and our deserters must, as we had all along insisted, be given up to us. With this information Beny Bahadre accordingly repaired to Shujah Dowla, promising if he did not comply, that he would leave him and be at the disposal of the English. But the Major, in a few days after, received a letter from each of them, acquainting him that his demand could not then be complied with, though they hoped it might sometime hence. Major Munro having, on receipt of our instructions, acquainted the King with our resolution in his favour, he expressed great satisfaction thereat, and a readiness to act in every respect conformable to our desire; and the Major, with his address, advising of these particulars, transmitted to

to us sundry letters from him, together with a paper of proposals which were wrote before he was acquainted with our instructions to the Major, urging us to establish ourselves and him in the possession of Shujah Dowla's country.

PAR. 3. Finding ourselves thus obliged to continue the war, we thought it proper to demand from the King, whom we were to support as Shujah Dowla's competitor, some further considerations, besides the tract of country as far as Banaras, which we informed you we should keep possession of, supposing we even acceded to a peace with Shujah Dowla; and we accordingly transmitted to Major Munro, a paper of articles to be executed by his Majesty, assigning to us the whole country of Gauzepoor, and the rest of the Zemindary of Bulwant Sing, with the same rights, and in as full a manner, as enjoyed by Shujah Dowla, and engaging himself moreover to reimburse to the Company the expences of the war, from the time of his joining us. We, at the same time, transmitted the Major the necessary instructions, but we have not yet received an answer from him.

PAR. 6. We hope, however, by our next ship, to be able to advise you, that the Major has successfully effected his intention of bringing them again to action, together with the reduction, in consequence, of Chunarghur and the city of Illiadabad, and this we think must certainly put a final period to the war, and firmly establish the King in the intended possession of Shujah Dowla's country.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since writing the foregoing the President has received advice from Major Munro, that the King has executed the articles we transmitted him, and was also preparing proper Sunnuds, for making over to us the Zemindary held by Bulwant Sing.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *February 6, 1765.*

P A R A G R A P H 3.

YOU will understand, by the foregoing advice, that Shujah Dowla has not yet thought proper to acquiesce in our first demands. In his last letters he has however appeared much more earnest in his offers for peace than he had before; and though this is a measure we should some time ago have rejoiced to see take place, yet, as through his obstinacy we have now entered into engagement with the King, no accommodation can be effected without a due regard to the interest of his Majesty, and those engagements; and previous to all, the absolute delivery into our hands of Mur Cossim, Sombre, and the deserters. If this demand is implicitly complied with, and the King's affairs can be settled to his satisfaction, an accommodation may be more eligible than a continuance of the war. We find Major Munro, before his departure, has founded his Majesty on this subject, but that he declined giving any reply thereto, till he saw the part which Shujah Dowla should act upon our first demands; should this be complied with, he has directed his (the King's) sentiments on a peace in general, to be transmitted us as soon as possible, that we may come to the necessary regulations; at the same time, lest this should create any doubts with him in respect to our conduct, we have thought proper to renew, in the strongest terms, the assurance of our firm attachment to him, and given directions, that in any correspondence with Shujah Dowla, particular care is observed, that we do not appear inclined to deviate from our engagements with his Majesty, without his approbation. These engagements we must however mention, are only such as our interest, and the circumstances of the war, naturally led us into.

PAR. 4. And here it is proper, in consequence of the 2d paragraph of your letter of the 1st of June, to refer your Honours again to the

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the 8th of our last address of the 26th of November, by the Devonshire, and to repeat and confirm the assurance we therein gave you, that we do not wish to extend our connections beyond what may appear necessary for securing the future tranquility of the country; that this is, and will always be the first object; of our considerations, and that whatever engagements we may enter into, they shall be such only as tend to this point, and the promotion of your commercial interests.

PAR. 5. The King has continued to remain always with our army, and has executed in part the Firman we mentioned in our last; what was omitted therein, although his Majesty afterwards appears in some degree to have assented thereto, in a letter to Major Munro, is the article which relates to his defraying the expences of the war, from the time he joined us. As our army is now employed so much for his benefit, it is highly reasonable he should bear the Company clear of expence in the service; and we have therefore desired that an opportunity may be taken of conferring with him on the subject, and his compliance in writing pressed as far as prudence and propriety may admit.

PAR. 6. His Majesty having no resources, for his immediate support, and judging it proper that he should receive every testimony of our respect and attachment, we directed such sums to be advanced him for the expences of his household, as his exigencies might absolutely require, till he was put in full possession of Shujah Dowla's country; and we find he has, in consequence, received the amount which has yet been collected on our new revenues, being about ninety thousand rupees, the proper receipts and promissory notes for the refunding of the same having been first taken.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *March 11, 1765.*

WE now continue, by the ship Bute, a detail of the few occurrences under this department, since our last address by the Vanfittart, of the 6th and 8th ultimo.

PAR. 2. Immediately after her dispatch, we met, as you were advised, to consider on the situation of our affairs with the King and Shujah Dowla, and the measures proper to be taken for bringing the war to as speedy a period as possible; and as our preliminary demand of the surrender of Meer Coffim, Sombre, and the deserters, had appeared to be the principal obstacles, Shujah Dowla urging always, that it was inconsistent with his honour to give up people who had fled to him for protection, it was agreed, we should recede from that part of it which respected Coffim and Sombre, provided he would himself cause to be executed the punishment we think due for their crimes, by putting them to death in a publick manner, as an act of justice, and so that we could be certified thereof, and have no doubt that they were really the persons executed, of his disposition to which we had some intimation. With regard to the deserters, we were of opinion, it was proper still to insist on their being delivered into our own hands, as there was not the same reason for his objecting to this part, and in order that an example might be made to the army of their scandalous behaviour. It was not, however, our intention in consequence to relinquish the Sunnuds before obtained for the Zemindary of Bulwant Sing's country, or yield the territory again to Shujah Dowla: but if terms could have been received through the King for a peace, in which the aforesaid article should be agreed to, and the interest of his Majesty provided for to his satisfaction, that he might not remain a burden to the Company, without the absolute expulsion of Shujah Dowla from all his dominions, as was at first proposed, it appeared to us that it would be advisable to encourage such an overture.

PAR. 6.

PAR. 6. You were advised, in our last letter by the Vansittart, of the decease of the Nabob Meer Jaffier, of what then occurred to us on the occasion, as to the plan proper to be pursued, and that we should immediately enter into the maturest discussion of all the circumstances attending the change of government, and form such resolutions as might appear to us best calculated for the Company's interest, and the good of the country in general.

PAR. 7. We accordingly began to meet for this purpose, in consultation, the 12th ult. when the point of succession being first taken into consideration, it was agreed, that it should continue in the family of Meer Jaffier, and in the person of his surviving eldest son Nudjum ul Dowla, Mr. Burdett only dissenting to this latter part in favour of his grandson, the son of Miran.

PAR. 8. Having afterwards considered the arrangements and regulations necessary to be made in the government; it was resolved, on account of Nudjum ul Dowla's minority, and his entire ignorance in the affairs of government, having been never in the least engaged therein, till he went up to the city about two months before, that the whole charge should not rest upon him, nor upon Nundcomar in whom he had expressed an inclination of reposing his entire confidence; since then the whole trust appeared too great to be placed in one man; and that, from former circumstances in Nundcomar's conduct, we had much reason to distrust him, it was thought proper that another person should be appointed, at the board's recommendation, in the capacity of Naib Subah, who should have, immediately under the Nabob, the chief management of all affairs; and no one, at the same time, appearing so fit for this trust as Mahomed Reza Khan, the Naib of Dacca, he was accordingly nominated for it. Under this Naib Subah it was agreed, that the business of the collection of the revenues should be divided into two or more branches, as might afterwards appear proper, and the appointment or dismissal of the Mutfeddies of those branches, and the allotment of their several districts, be with our approbation; and that we should also be at liberty to point

point out and object, when improper persons were employed under them.

PAR. 9. With regard to the monthly assignment of five lacks of rupees, granted by Meer Jaffier to assist in defraying the expences of our army, and which we proposed getting converted into a further fixed resource for that purpose; we agreed that Nudjum ul Dowla should for the present engage to continue it to the Company, while the troubles obliged us to keep the army in the field, leaving the matter to be further and finally determined on when peace should be restored.

PAR. 10. These points, with a confirmation of the necessary articles of the last treaty with Meer Jaffier, his son was to accede to, previous to his being established by us in the Subadree. A treaty was accordingly prepared conformable thereto, and a deputation appointed, with the proper instructions to get our resolution carried into execution; and we have the pleasure to acquaint you, that after proper pains and attention taken to give Nudjum ul Dowla the clearest and plainest notion of the several articles, and of the sincerity of our intentions to support him, on those conditions, faithfully and readily, he agreed to accept the treaty in the form it was offered, and accordingly executed it, on his part, in the presence of the principal men of the Durbar: he has been since publicly seated on the Musnud by our deputies, and proclaimed every where in proper form; and we learn, from those gentlemen, that he seems perfectly happy with what has been done for him, and fully content to receive the government only from the company, and to rest himself entirely upon our advice and protection.

PAR. 11. The effecting the execution of your orders, for obtaining the reversion of Lord Clive's Jaghire to the Company, is a principal point in the instructions to the deputation, this appearing the most favourable opportunity that could have offered for that purpose. For your information on the other points, we refer you to our consultation of the 14th ultimo, where they are entered at full.

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copy of the treaty is transmitted in the packet, to which we also beg leave to refer you.

LORD CLIVE'S LETTER, September 30, 1765.

PARAGRAPH 12.

THE sources of tyranny and oppression, which have been opened by the European agents, acting under the authority of the Company's servants, and the numberless black agents and sub-agents, acting also under them, will, I fear, be a lasting reproach to the English name in this country. It is impossible to enumerate the complaints that have been laid before me, by the unfortunate inhabitants, who had not forgot that I was an enemy to oppression. The necessity of securing the confidence of the natives is an idea I have ever maintained, and was in hopes would be invariably adopted by others: but ambition, success, and luxury, have, I find, introduced a new system of politicks, at the severe expence of English honour, of the Company's faith, and even of common justice and humanity. The orders so frequently issued, that no writers shall have the privilege of Dustucks, I have strictly obeyed; but I am sorry to inform you, that all the wished for consequences are not to be expected; the officers of the government are so sensible of our influence and authority, that they dare not presume to search or stop a boat protected by the name of a Company's servants, and you may be assured that frauds of that kind, so easy to be practised and so difficult to be detected, are but too frequent. I have at last, however, the happiness to see the completion of an event, which in this respect, as well as in many others, must be productive of advantages hitherto unknown, and at the same time prevent abuses that have hitherto had no remedy; I mean the Dewannee, which is the superintendency of all the lands, and the collection of all the revenues of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa. The assistance which the great Mogul had received from our arms and treasury, made him

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readily

readily bestow this grant upon the Company, and it is done in the most effectual manner you can desire. The allowance for the support of the Nabob's dignity and power, and the tribute to his Majesty must be regularly paid; the remainder belongs to the Company. Revolutions are now no longer to be apprehended, the means of effecting them will in future be wanting to ambitious Mussulmen, nor will your servants, civil or military, be tempted to foment disturbances, from whence can arise no benefit to themselves. Restitution, donation money, &c. &c. will be perfectly abolished, as the revenues from whence they used to issue will be possessed by ourselves. The power of supervising the provinces, though lodged in us, should not however, in my opinion, be exerted. Three times the present number of civil servants would be insufficient for the purpose; whereas, if we leave the management to the old officers of the government, the Company need not be at the expence of one additional servant; and though we may suffer in the collection, yet we shall always be able to detect and punish any great offenders, and shall have some satisfaction in knowing that the corruption is not among ourselves. By this means also, the abuses inevitably springing from the exercise of territorial authority, will be effectually obviated; there will still be a Nabob with an allowance suitable to his dignity, and the territorial jurisdiction will be in the chiefs of the country acting under him, and the presidency in conjunction, though the revenues will belong to the Company. Besides, were the Company's officers to be the collectors, foreign nations would immediately take umbrage; and complaints preferred to the British court, might be attended with very embarrassing consequences; nor can it be supposed that either the French, Dutch, or Danes will acknowledge the English company Nabob of Bengal, and pay into the hands of their servants, the duties upon trade, or the quit-rents of those districts which they have for many years possessed, by virtue of the royal firmaun, or by grants from former Nabobs.

PAR. 13. Your revenues, by means of this new acquisition, will, as near as I can judge, not fall far short, for the ensuing year, of two hundred

hundred and fifty lacks of Sicca Rupees, including your former possessions of Burdwan, &c. Hereafter they will at least amount to twenty or thirty lacks more; your civil and military expences, in time of peace, can never exceed sixty lacks of rupees; the Nabob's allowances are already reduced to 22 lacks, and the tribute to the King, is fixed at 26; so that there will be remaining a clear gain to the Company of 122 lacks of Sicca rupees, or 1,650,000, sterling; which will defray all the expences of the investment, furnish the whole of the China treasure, answer the demands of all your other settlements in India, and leave a considerable ballance in your treasury, besides: in time of war, when the country may be subject to incursions of bodies of cavalry, we shall notwithstanding be able to collect a sufficient sum for our civil and military exigencies, and likewise for our investments, because a very rich part of the Bengal and Bahar dominions are situated to the eastward of the Ganges, where we can never be invaded. What I have given you, is a real not imaginary state of your revenues, and you may be assured they will not fall short of my computation.

GENERAL LETTER, September 30, 1763.

PARAGRAPH 2d.

LORD Clive having arrived in town, and resumed his seat at the Board the 9th instant, laid before them an extract from the proceedings of the Select Committee, held the 7th, upon his return, accompanying the copy of a treaty of peace concluded by him and General Carnac, on the part of the Honourable Company and the Nabob, with Shujah Dowla; together with a translation of a grant and Sunnuds obtained from the King, for the Dewannee of these provinces, and of an agreement subscribed to, in consequence, by the Nabob, through the means of his Lordship and Mr. Sykes; as also translations of other Sunnuds from the King, confirming to the Company their former possessions, and securing

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to them the reversion of Lord Clive's Jaghire: for this his Lordship had before, on his way up, obtained the Nabob's Sunnud in duplicate, one of them to be forwarded to you, if we judged it proper, which is accordingly transmitted in the packet, with an attested copy of the translation. We also send you like copies of the several papers abovementioned, to which we beg leave to refer you, and to offer you, at the same time, our hearty congratulations on this event of the return of peace, which we hope, and have now all reason to expect, from our established influence and power, will remain in future uninterrupted: the same was proclaimed here in proper form on the 12th, and ordered to be also published at the Subordinata.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S LETTER, September 30, 1765.

PARAGRAPH 18.

A Peace with the Vizier became the next immediate object of our deliberations, in adjusting which, we endeavoured to extend our views beyond the present advantages, that might possibly be obtained; we regarded Shujah Dowla's personal character and high reputation over the whole empire, the situation of his country which we had conquered, and the great risque and expence of maintaining this conquest, if we closed in with the plan adopted by the late governor and council, of giving it up to Nudjuff Khan, who had neither weight of reputation nor of force sufficient to keep possession, nor to form a secure barrier to the Nabob's dominions. The words of our instructions to Lord Clive, when he left the presidency to adjust the conditions of a peace, express the sentiments which we still entertain on this subject: experience having shewn, "that an influence maintained by force of arms, "is destructive of that commerical spirit which we ought to promote, ruinous to the Company, and oppressive to the country, "we earnestly recommend to your Lordship, that you will ex-
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“ert your utmost endeavours to conciliate the affections of the
 “country powers, to remove any jealousy they may entertain
 “of our unbounded ambition, and to convince them we aim not
 “at conquest, but security in carrying on a free trade, equally bene-
 “ficial to them and to us.

“With this view, policy requires that, our demands be moderate
 “and equitable, and that we avoid every appearance of an inclina-
 “tion to enlarge our territorial possessions. The sacrifice of conquest
 “which we must hold on a very precarious tenure, and at an ex-
 “pence more than equivalent to their revenues, is of little consequence
 “to us: yet will such restitution impress them with a high opi-
 “nion of our generosity and justice. For these reasons, we think
 “Shujah Dowla should be reinstated in the full possession of all
 “his dominions, with such limitations only as he must see are evi-
 “dently calculated for our own mutual benefit. We would decline
 “insisting upon any terms that must prove irksome to his high spirit
 “and imply a suspicion of his sincerity: retaining possessions of
 “any of his strong holds may possibly be deemed a necessary pledge
 “of his fidelity; for our own parts, we would rather consider
 “it as the source of future contention, and an unnecessary burden
 “to the Company, unless it be one day proposed to resume the
 “thoughts of extending their dominion; a measure very opposite
 “to the sentiments in which we left the Court of Directors.”

PAR. 19. Agreeable to these instructions his Lordship and Ge-
 neral Carnac concluded a treaty of peace with Shujah Dowla, that
 will, if any thing can, secure his friendship and fidelity, and render
 the public tranquillity permanent. They found him extremely averse
 to the establishment of factories in his dominions, which he con-
 sidered as laying the foundation of a future rupture, and the only
 thing that could possibly disturb our amity. He very justly ob-
 served that our encroachments in Bengal, the great abuses of the Com-
 pany's servants, and extraordinary extension of the privileges ori-
 ginally granted to the English, had been productive of much con-
 fusion and bloodshed in Bengal, and he feared might produce simi-

lar consequences in his country; accordingly Lord Clive and General Carnac judged it adviseable to omit the word *factories* in the treaty, but without relinquishing the right, should it be found expedient, after mature deliberation, to enforce it. To speak our own sentiments freely, we can foresee no benefit that can arise to the Company from maintaining settlements at so vast a distance from the presidency, whatever advantage may arise to their servants; at least the prospect is so remote, while the expences are so certain, the risk so evident, and the disputes it will occasion so probable, that we are at present of opinion, the factory lately established at Banaras ought immediately to be withdrawn, we mean as soon as the agreement between the Company and Bulwant Sing is expired. The limits of the Nabob's dominion are sufficient to answer all your purposes, these we think ought to constitute the boundaries not only of all your territorial possessions and influence in these parts, but of your commerce also; since by grasping at more you endanger the safety of these immense revenues, and that well founded power which you now enjoy, without the hope of obtaining an adequate advantage.

PAR. 20. With respect to the other article of the treaty, you will observe, that a sufficient provision is secured for the support of the King's honour and dignity, without danger of his becoming a future incumbrance, and that 26 lacks yearly are granted to him on the revenues of Bengal; a revenue far more considerable than he ever before enjoyed. In gratitude for this instance of our attention to his interest, his Majesty has been pleased to bestow on the Company, the most important grants ever yet obtained by any European state from the Mogul court: besides confirming to the Company all their former possessions and securing to them, the reversion in perpetuity of Lord Clive's Jaghire, he has conferred on them the Dewannee of Bengal, Bahar, and Crissa, and ratified, in the strongest terms, an agreement we proposed concluding with the Nabob, if the King's consent could be procured, subjects which it will be necessary to explain in a separate paragraph. Another article

cle stipulates that Shujah Dowla shall pay the Company fifty lacks of rupees by way of indemnification for the charges occurred by the war: ~~this indemnification we know is inadequate, but his circumstances would not afford more, without oppressing the country and thereby~~ laying the foundation of future contention and trouble; and accordingly you will perceive that no money is granted for any other consideration whatever. As to surrendering Cossim Ally, Sombre, and the deserters, compliance with such a demand is now utterly out of his power: the former we hear has sought shelter in the Rohillah country, and the latter reside under the protection of the Jauts screened both from Shujah Dowla and from us, so that making this an essential preliminary would be highly unreasonable and absurd. However, it is stipulated that they never meet with encouragement or assistance from Shujah Dowla, or be ever again admitted into his country. Upon the whole, we have paid such a regard to Shujah Dowla's character and interest, and to what justice as well as policy requires, without any the smallest sacrifice of your honour or interest, that we entertain the most flattering hope, this treaty of peace will be lasting, and our frontiers on that quarter perfectly secure against future invasion.

PAR. 37. We are further to acquaint you, that not satisfied with paying all due attention to the confirmation and security of your possessions in Bengal, Lord Clive has also obtained from the King, ~~Sunnuds for the five northern provinces, and the strongest ratification, under his Majesty's hand and seal, of all your former grants in the Carnatic.~~

~~Mr. Holwell, who arrived at Plymouth in the ship the "Hector," by bringing advice of the capture of Fort William by Admiral Watson's squadron, under the command of Colonel Clive. Besides the General and Major Comdant's letters, by those conveyances, we have received the several separate addresses of many of our servants in Bengal, relative to the before mentioned event.~~

~~By the last advice from Bengal, we have some reason to believe that the Nabob has listened to pacific measures, and~~

EXTRACTS

EXTRACTS

OF LETTERS to the EAST-INDIA Company's Servants in BENGAL.

GENERAL LETTER, *August 3, 1757.*

PARAGRAPH I.

ON the 4th of June, we received by the ships Edgcote and Portfield, from Bombay, and the Chesterfield, from Fort Saint George, the melancholy news of the loss of Fort William, and the rest of the Company's settlements in Bengal. On the 22d day of July, Mr. Holleywell, who arrived at Plymouth in the Syren sloop, gave a most agreeable turn to our thoughts, by bringing advice of the recapture of Fort William by Admiral Watson's Squadron, under the command of Colonel Clive. Besides the General and Select Committee's letters, by those conveyances, we have received the several separate addresses of many of our servants in Bengal, relative to the before mentioned event.

PAR. II. By the last advices from Bengal, we have some reason to flatter ourselves, that the Nabob has listened to pacifick measures,
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and that he has agreed to reinstate the Company in their possessions, rights, and privileges, and make an ample restitution for the loss we have sustained, and the immense expences we have and shall be put to, should not an accomodation be entirely agreed to, upon the receipt of this. Pacifick measures must, if possible, be the foundation you are to build on, as the best means for promoting the commerical interest of the Company, and avoiding the heavy expences which a state of war must necessarily produce, and the Company at this juncture are so little able to bear.

GENERAL LETTER, *November 11, 1757.*

PARAGRAPH 35.

IT is impossible to give you any precise directions for your conduct with respect to the Nabob, as the manner of acting must vary according to circumstances; we must, therefore, depend upon your prudence and care to act for the best, in the various events as they occur, having a particular regard, however, to the recommendations in our last letter, to pursue, as much as possible, pacifick measures with him, and to endeavour to convince him, that it is his as well as the Company's interest to be always on good terms.

GENERAL LETTER, *dated March 3, 1758.*

PARAGRAPH 38.

IT is with the utmost pleasure we see the deplorable situation of the Company's affairs greatly retrieved, by the taking of Chandernagore from the French, and a treaty of pacification with the Nabob, in general, we believe, as advantageous and honourable as could then be stipulated. We could have wished, for the sake of the many unhappy sufferers, that some compensation had been agreed to for the private property taken and destroyed on the capture of Fort William;

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this is so interesting a matter, that we cannot think, you have, or will omit the making proper applications to the Nabob, if you have the least probability of succeeding: taking care, however, not to involve the Company's affairs by such applications.

PAR. 36. Although it is evident the apprehensions of the English force operated very strongly upon the Nabob, and possibly induced him to execute a treaty more advantageous to the Company, than he would at another time have agreed to; yet when he reflects of the mutual advantages resulting from it, we flatter ourselves he will punctually observe it; on your parts you must take every opportunity of cultivating a sincere and lasting friendship with him, the securing of which is one of the great objects on which the success of our affairs in Bengal almost entirely depends.

PAR. 40. We could be glad that the said treaty had the confirmation of the great Mogul, and if ever an opportunity offers for that purpose, we recommend it to you, to use your best endeavours to procure it; whether, since the late revolution at the court of Delhi, this is a practicable measure, you are the best judges, and will shape your conduct according to circumstances.

GENERAL LETTER, *March 8, 1758.*

P A R A G R A P H 23.

IN our letter of the 3d instant, we lamented the situation of the many unhappy people who had lost their property on the capture of Fort William, and had no relief from the treaty concluded with the late Nabob. In compassion to their sufferings we recommended your applying to him, on their behalf, for relief, if you had the least probability of succeeding. It is with great pleasure we find the late happy revolution and your care, have produced what we had very little reason to expect from the late Nabob, a grant from the present Nabob of such large sums, to make good the losses of the several inhabitants, as are, we are satisfied, much more than sufficient.

sufficient to indemnify them, even with interest thereon. Although the Nabob gives the Company a crore of rupees, yet, when the immense expence of maintaining the settlement at Fulta, the military charges of our forces from Fort Saint George and Bombáy, and the hazard those presidencies have been exposed to, by drawing them off from thence; the charges of fortifications, and rebuildings, replacing stores, increase of our garrison, the loss of a season's investment, if not more, and many other obvious particulars are taken into the account, it will appear that the Company will still be considerable sufferers. It is highly reasonable, therefore, if the several inhabitants are paid out of the monies stipulated in the treaty with the Nabob, for that purpose, the full amount of their respective losses, together with the interest thereon, that all the surplus should be applied to the Company's use. We shall expect to hear you have acted in this manner, and that such surplus has been accordingly deposited in our cash; and we direct that you observe this as a rule for your conduct in the distribution of any further sums of money which have been given by the Nabob to particular persons, by way of free-gift or gratuity for their services; it is the surplus of the sums we mean, which are agreed to be paid by the Nabob in the 5th, 6th, and 7th articles of the treaty with him. It is thought proper here to acquaint you, that such surplus, whatever they are, we propose to expend in such a manner as will tend to the general utility and security of the settlement; they are, therefore, to be reserved for our further orders; and you are hereby directed to transmit us, for our information, exact accounts of every person's loss, whether English or other inhabitants, on the late capture of Fort William, and what has been paid to each of them, in particular, by way of indemnification for the same, out of the monies granted by the Nabob for that purpose.

GENERAL

GENERAL LETTER, *November 23, 1759.*

PARAGRAPH 38.

IT gives us great pleasure to observe that the good terms you were upon with the Nabob, and the profound peace in Bengal, have afforded you an opportunity of making a diversion, by an expedition to Golcondah; we flatter ourselves it has proved a seasonable and successful one, and will be the means not only of lessening the influence and power of the French in those parts, but greatly distressing them, especially as the country powers seemed, with good reason, to be heartily tired of their conduct and behaviour. The only thing that gives us any concern is the defenceless condition our settlements in Bengal were in on the departure of the troops: but as we make no doubt this point was maturely considered, we hope your care has prevented any ill consequences resulting therefrom.

GENERAL LETTER, *April 1, 1760.*

PARAGRAPH 38.

THE obtaining the Luckipore Zemindary, has our approbation, since by your description not only a revenue arises, but there is the prospect of future mercantile advantages; and we thank you for this, as well as other similar instances of attention to our interests.

GENERAL LETTER, *March 13, 1761.*

PARAGRAPH 44.

WHENEVER the Nabob calls for assistance you are undoubtedly, by treaty, and consistent indeed with good policy, obliged to support him; but your own prudence will always suggest that great
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economy should be exercised in these expeditions; we are far from ever expecting any lucrative advantage at the expence of the Nabob in such occasional aids, let us only be kept free from charge. Our interests are now so cemented that these measures become acts of necessity, and should the Nabob, by a wanton and injudicious dissipation of his wealth, be reduced to poverty, the same dismal consequences we may one day feel, as we now so heavily experience with Mahomed Ally Khan, the Nabob of Arcot. This doctrine must be strongly inculcated to our officers and soldiers, who have hitherto been taught and practised very different lessons: the Nabob ought not to be charged a single rupee more for the expence of our troops, than we pay ourselves; it should be understood and considered as a common cause; it certainly is so, and our military as much in their duty, as if they were defending the Fort of Calcutta. Frequent largesses from the Nabob to individuals should be discouraged, or our well meaning and generous support, may be his ruin: and these our sentiments he should be made acquainted with. We do not mean to throw blame upon our military in these matters, on the contrary we with pleasure confess that their extraordinary behaviour, and noble actions, merit our highest praise, and will always entitle them to our favour; nor do our intentions reach to a total restriction of all bounties: there may occasions offer, when you with the Nabob may think it prudent and necessary. Upon the whole, you see our views are to restore such order, oeconomy and good management as are suitable to a settled and well regulated government, for the methods and practices we allude to, could only be tolerated in a revolution, when all was chaos and confusion.

GENERAL LETTER, *July 19, 1761.*

PARAGRAPH 4.

UPON a perusal of the several letters and papers, we have the agreeable satisfaction of finding that the great* revolution in the Subahship therein mentioned, has been, and is likely, to prove great-

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* This was the revolution in which Cossim Ally Khan obtained the Subahship.

ly advantageous to the Company. We have not now time to enter into any particulars on this happy event, and can, therefore, only recommend, and leave it to your discretion, to act in such manner as shall appear to you to be most for the Company's interest.

GENERAL LETTER, *October 7, 1761.*

PARAGRAPH 4.

THIS is the third* revolution in Bengal, wherein the very being of the Company has been, and from their consequences may still be at stake. Your advancing Jaffier Ally Khan to the Subahship in the room of Serajah Dowla, was undoubtedly a necessary measure, as well for the good of the country in general, as the interest of the Company in particular; your afterwards deposing Jaffier Ally Khan in his room, we hope was done also with the same view. Upon this presumption and confidence, that no other motives whatsoever had any influence upon you, we must look upon the measures pursued upon this occasion, to be unavoidable; at the same time we cannot help observing that it is to the great regard the Company have always had to a faithful observance of their agreement, they have acquired, and hitherto preserved, a reputation with the natives of India; we could have wished, therefore, the situation of affairs would have admitted keeping terms with Jaffier Ally Khan, that even the least handle for a pretence might not have offered to prejudiced people to make use of or throw any reflection upon this transaction.

GENERAL LETTER, *February 19, 1762.*

PARAGRAPH 30.

IN our letter of the 30th of September last, we gave your our sentiments in general upon the late revolution in Bengal, since which we are further informed of the Shah Zadah's defeat, his throwing himself

* This is a mistake, for it was only the second revolution.

himself upon you for protection, and the immense expence of his maintenance out of the Company's money, of no less than one thousand rupees a day, and of some views of placing him upon the throne of Delhi. It is alledged indeed, that care will be taken that the Nabob defrays the said daily expence, which we hope will be the case, or at least that some other certain means be fixed upon to reimburse that expence, and all other expences on his account. Upon a view of the frequent revolutions, the great designs proposed to be executed, and the consequent heavy expences, too justly to be apprehended, we are filled with the utmost anxiety lest the events should turn out to the prejudice of our affairs; and in particular the scheme of assisting the Shah Zadah, we hope has been well considered, and, if entered upon, carried on with that prudence, as may leave us no room to impeach your conduct.

PAR. 31. It is from a quiet situation of affairs only in Bengal, that we can hope to have the benefit of the large revenues we are at present in possession of; a permanent tranquility, therefore, must be the constant object in view; for extensive as our territories and revenues are, they must be exhausted by the army which, by your treaty with the present Nabob, is to be paid out of the produce of them.

PAR. 33. The countries granted to the Company, by the treaty with the present Nabob, you say, will in time of peace, under proper regulations, produce an annual revenue of fifty lacks of rupees, and upwards. This is a noble object, and well worth your utmost care and attention, more especially at this time, when our wants are so great and our expences so heavy; we shall accordingly depend upon your taking such prudent measures as may secure to us the quiet possession of those territories, and the collection of the revenues to as large an amount as may be consistent with the ability of the inhabitants, and that humane lenity which we would always have observed on such occasions.

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GENERAL LETTER, *March 9, 1763.*

PARAGRAPH 52.

IT gives us great pleasure to find, by your letter of the 5th of June, 1760, and by all your subsequent advices, that the country enjoys a perfect tranquility. We earnestly recommend that you use your best endeavours to keep it so, as the only measures to secure to us the advantages we may hope for.

PAR. 53. From the general view you have given us in your 56th, 57th, and 58th paragraphs of your advices by the Hawke, with respect to your transactions with the Shah Zada, who had been proclaimed King at Delhi, as well as for the several proceedings on the same subject, which appear at large in your Select Committee's diary, we observe Major Carnac and Colonel Coote were both very solicitous to have engaged in the project of accompanying the King to the capital with a body of our forces; however, we are better pleased that the King left the province without our being obliged to engage in such a hazardous enterprize; and had Colonel Coote's regiment arrived before the urgency of the King's affairs required his moving forward to the capital, yet we should have hoped you would not, even then, have been tempted to engage in so distant an undertaking, but contented yourselves with the right step you have taken, in treating that prince with all due respect during his stay in the province of Bengal, and escorting him, with a proper force, to the borders; for in short, our sentiments are, that if we can secure our present possessions and privileges in Bengal, preserve the peace of the province, and the Nabob in the government, and prevent the borders from being invaded or disturbed by the neighbouring Rajahs, or other powers, we shall be fully satisfied, and think our forces judiciously employed in answering these principal points; for we are by no means desirous of making further acquisitions, or engaging our forces in distant projects, unless the
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most absolute necessity should require it, to answer one or other of the principal views aforementioned.

PAB. 54. The Sunnuds being sent by the King to the Nabob for the three provinces, is a very agreeable circumstance; but although you do not mention, in the general advices, any complaints that the Nabob made, on his being obliged to purchase those grants at a much greater expence to him after the King passed the borders, than he would have had them for while that prince was at Patna, if the Nabob had not been properly supported in his pretensions by our commanding officer then there; yet something of this appears in your diaries, and, if true, surely our force and influence were not so effectually applied as they might have been; and although we are unwilling to pass a censure on any particular person on this point, yet we have no occasion in future even for a doubt that the interest of a prince * we are so closely connected with by treaty has been slighted for it. The difficulties are multiplied upon him, and his power and influence not supported by us, when he wants our assistance: he must suffer by such measures, as our interest must likewise do in the end.

Your refusal of the Dewannee of Bengal, offered by the King, was certainly right; and we are well satisfied with the just and prudent reasons you give for declining that offer: however, it seems something extraordinary to us, that at the time the King makes this advance, he should return the applications made to him for the Sunnuds, to confirm our privileges and possessions in Bengal, granted by the late and present Nabob, in so loose and unsatisfactory a manner, and even to require a Peshcush, or present, before he passes the order in due form. The great services we had rendered his Majesty, and the generous treatment he met with from us, as well as from our ally, the Nabob, during his stay at Patna, surely claimed a more distinguished treatment, and at least a full grant of our requests, without such an expensive demand annexed. The time and

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manner of the refusal seem likewise very extraordinary, your applications being returned at the very juncture Major Carnac was escorting him to the Caramnassa, or borders of the province, a service which must then be fresh in the King's memory; and therefore we think there is reason to apprehend the King is not so cordially attached to us as we might have expected: however, if you judge the obtaining such Sumnuds to be absolutely necessary, you have, we doubt not, continued your application to have them perfected. It was a prudent consideration in you, to add to your applications on this subject, our ally, Ally Verdi Khan, otherwise called Mohammed Ally Khan, as Nabob of Arcot, which we suppose you have, or will continue to do, when you think it proper to move again in this affair; and if the King should succeed in his pretensions to the throne, the sooner the grants are obtained, the less, we apprehend, will be the expence attending it.

GENERAL LETTER, February 8, 1764.

PARAGRAPH I.

WE have, in the most careful and attentive manner, taken a view of the registers of your proceedings for the year 1761, and from that time to the 14th of February, 1763. (the last received) wherein we find, to our great concern, the conduct and behaviour of many of our servants have been inconsistent with their duty to, and detrimental to the interest of the Company, in a variety of instances, which too glaringly appear upon the face of your said registers; particularly with respect to the present Subah of Bengal, Cossim Ally Khan, with whom it is most evident the strictest friendship and harmony ought to have been cultivated; instead whereof he and his government have met with so much improper and injurious treatment, and been defrauded in his revenues by the licentious trade of our said servants, and the agents acting under, and countenanced by them, to so great a degree, that we dread the
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consequences. It is high time therefore to remedy these evils, by exerting our authority in removing such persons, who, if continued, would (from what we have already observed of their behaviour) throw our affairs into the utmost confusion, and by appointing such others in their room, from whose good management we shall expect such care and attention to the true interest of the Company, that we may not again be under the necessity of recurring to such a disagreeable measure.

PAR. 20. One great source of the disputes, misunderstandings, and difficulties, which have occurred with the country government, appears evidently to have taken its rise from the unwarrantable and licentious manner of carrying on the private trade by the Company's servants, their Gomastahs, agents, and others, to the prejudice of the Subah, both with respect to his authority, and the revenues justly due to him; the diverting and taking from his natural subjects the trade in the inland parts of the country, to which neither we, or any persons whatsoever dependent upon us, or under our protection, have any manner of right, and consequently endangering the Company's very valuable privileges: in order therefore to remedy all these disorders, we do hereby positively order and direct,

PAR. 21. That from the receipt of this letter, a final and effectual end be forthwith put to the inland trade, in salt, beetle-nut, tobacco, and all other articles whatsoever, produced and consumed in the country; and that all European and other agents, or Gomastahs, who have been concerned in such trade, be immediately ordered down to Calcutta, and not suffered to return or be replaced as such by any other persons.

PAR. 22. That as our Firman privileges of being duty free are certainly confined to the Company's export and import trade only, you are to have recourse to, and keep within the liberty therein stipulated and given, as nearly as can possibly be done; but as by the connivance of the Bengal government, and constant usage, the Company's covenanted servants have had the same benefit as the Company, with respect to their export and import trade, we are willing they

they should enjoy the same, and that Duffucks be granted accordingly; but herein the most effectual care is to be taken, that no excesses or abuses are suffered, upon any account whatsoever, nor Duffucks granted to any others than our covenant servants, as aforesaid: however, notwithstanding any of our former orders, no writer is to have the benefit of a Duffuck, until he has served out his full time of five years in that station. Free merchants and others are not intitled to, or have the benefit of the Company's Duffucks, but are to pay the usual duties.

PAR. 23. As no agents or Gomastahs are to reside, on account of private trade, at any of the inland parts of the country, all business, on account of licensed private trade, is to be carried on by and through the means of the Company's covenant servants resident at the several subordinate factories, as has been usual.

PAR. 24. We are under the necessity of giving the before-mentioned orders, in order to preserve the tranquility of the country, and harmony with the Nabob; they are rather out-lines than compleat directions, which you are to add to, and improve upon, agreeable to the spirit of, and our meaning in them, as far as may be necessary, to answer the desired purposes; and if any person or persons are guilty of a contravention of them, be they whomsoever they may, if our own servants, they are to be dismissed the service, if others, the Company's protection is to be withdrawn; and you have the liberty of sending them forthwith to England, if you judge the nature of the case requires it.

GENERAL LETTER, *February 22, 1764.*

PARAGRAPH 39.

WE are informed, in a letter from your Select Committee of the 8th of April, 1762, that the design against the Marattas at Cuttack was dropped. As from the situation of affairs, and the condition of the Nabob, we must have become principals in the
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expedition, it is with real pleasure, therefore, we find that project was not carried into execution; and we must add, that no schemes for military operation are to be adopted, unless they are evidently and most materially necessary for the Company's interest; conquests are not our aim; and if we can secure and preserve our present possessions in Bengal we shall rest well satisfied.

GENERAL LETTER, *June 1, 1764.*

PARAGRAPH 2.

IN former letters we have given our sentiments upon the frequent revolutions in the government of Bengal, and we still are of the same opinion, that they must be productive of the greatest mischief and prejudice to the Company's affairs, and therefore are at all times to be avoided: this last therefore, by the reinstatement of Jaffier Ally Khan to the Subaship, will require your utmost care and attention to make it permanent, and prevent any future disturbances in the country; in order to which we repeat what we have directed in our letter of the 9th of May, Jaffier Ally is to be effectually supported in his government, consistently with the treaties between the Company and the said Subah, and the interest of the Company, of which you will be the best judges. It is proper to observe in this place, that we are well satisfied with our present possessions, and are by no means desirous of adding to them; their security therefore, the preserving the country in a state of tranquility, and the promotion of our commercial interests, are the objects which must be constantly in your view: and it is our positive order, that no military enterprizes or expeditions be undertaken, or carried into execution, unless the Company's interest really or immediately requires them.

PAR. 51. By this packet we send you a duplicate of the deed of agreement, entered into between the Company and Lord Clive, relative to his Jaghire, pursuant to a resolution of a General Court,

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which is to remain in the treasury of your presidency, to be made use of in India as occasion may require. We need give you no other directions relative to it, than that you are to co-operate with his Lordship in procuring a grant of the reversion of his Jaghire to the Company, according to his Lordship's agreement.

GENERAL LETTER, *April 26, 1765.*

P A R A G R A P H 22.

IN reading the opinions of the several members of the late council, respecting this illegal trade; by which we mean the articles of salt, beetle-nut and tobacco; we are astonished to find those among them, who pretended to found their right on the Firmaun,

PAR. 23. Treaties of commerce are understood to be for the mutual benefit of the contracting parties: is it then possible to suppose, that the court Delhi, by conferring the privilege of trading free of customs, could mean an inland trade in the commodities of their own country, at that period unpractised and unthought of by the English, to the detriment of their revenues, and the ruin of their own merchants? We do not find such a construction was ever heard of, until our own servants first invented it, and afterwards supported it by violence; neither could it be claimed by the subsequent treaties with Meer Jaffier, or Cossim Ally, which were never understood to give one additional privilege of trade beyond what the Firmaun expressed. In short, the specious arguments used by those who pretended to set up a right to it, convince us they did not want judgment, but virtue to withstand the temptation of suddenly amassing a great fortune, although acquired by a means incompatible with the peace of the country and their duty to the Company.

PAR. 24. Equally blameable were they who, acknowledging they had no right to it, and sensible of the ill consequences resulting from assuming it, have nevertheless carried on this trade, and
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used the authority of the Company to obtain, by a treaty exacted by violence, a sanction for a trade to enrich themselves, without the least regard or advantage to the Company, whose forces they employed to protect them in it.

PAR. 25. Had this short question been put, which their duty ought first to have suggested, "Is it for the interest of our employers?" they would not have hesitated one moment about it; but this criterion seems never once to have occurred.

PAR. 26. All barriers being thus broken down between the English and the country government, and every thing out of its proper channel, we are at a loss how to prescribe means to restore order from this confusion; and being deprived of that consequence which we hoped we might have placed in our servants, who appear to have been the actors in these strange scenes, we can only say that we rely on the zeal and abilities of Lord Clive, and the gentlemen of the Select Committee, to remedy these evils: we hope they will restore our reputation among the country powers and convince them of our abhorrence of oppression and rapaciousness.

PAR. 27. It is currently reported here, that letters are received by the Duke of Albany which make mention of an agreement between the Nabob Meer Jaffer and our late governor and council, since the treaty concluded with him on the 10th of July 1763, by which it is stipulated that the present Nabob shall pay, over and above the thirty lacks for the Company, mentioned in that treaty, forty lacks by way of restitution, to make good the losses of private persons, besides twenty five lacks to the army, and twelve lacks to the navy, not named in that treaty, making together the enormous sum of one hundred and seven lacks of rupees, which is above one million three hundred thousand pounds sterling.

PAR. 28. It is a very extraordinary circumstance, that there is no mention made in any of the letters from our late governor and council, of what sum was to be given by the Nabob to make good the private losses, although in their letter of the 27th of Sept. 1764, they say, they have regulated the payment of the restitution

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to the merchants, which implies the being in possession of a fund for that purpose. But we must suppose, if the reports as to the sums stipulated to be given for this use, and also by way of donation to the army and navy, are true, that they purposely omitted to acquaint us of the particular amount, from an apprehension, that we could never approve of an agreement with the Nabob of this consequence, and for such excessive large sums of money, without advising us thereof, and giving us very good reasons for a proceeding which so nearly affects the honour and interest of the Company. Indeed when we consider the present state of the country, involved for years past in continued wars, and drained of its riches and the blood of its inhabitants, it is impossible for us to suppose our own servants capable of adding so greatly to its miseries, by compelling or even persuading the Nabob to pay such exorbitant sums of money; and at a time when, by all accounts, he is himself in the greatest distress. Be this as it may, we do expect and require from you, a particular account of every sum received from the Nabob by way of donation, or under any other denomination, by any and each of our servants civil and military, whether by agreement in writing or otherwise, in what manner it was obtained, and for what services; and that you immediately transmit to us copies of all such agreements, and the particular account of losses given in by each individual, together with what proportion has been already paid; and we positively forbid any further payment, till you receive our future orders.

PAR. 29. We do require from you, and we have a right so to do, a just and precise account of this whole extraordinary transaction; the honour and reputation of the Company, and even of the nation are at stake; and when these particulars, if true, come to be known, they require the fullest and most explicit explanation and justification. We, who are at present totally uninformed from any authentic accounts, can only express our astonishment to hear that such things have been; as we cannot suggest to ourselves upon what principle the present Nabob could be expected, persuaded or required

quired to make good the losses sustained by individuals, in carrying on, to their great imputation, and the prejudice of the Company they served, a most illicit and unwarrantable, although to them a most lucrative trade, in the articles of salt, beetle-nut and tobacco; and we are as much at a loss to comprehend how the services rendered to the new Nabob could deserve so exorbitant a consideration to be given to those, who were only doing their duty in the service of their King and country and of this Company.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *December 24, 1764.*

PARAGRAPH I.

IN our letter by the ships Falmouth and Harcourt, dated the 26th of April last, we expressed our astonishment at the report then current, that forty lacks had been demanded for private restitution; and ordered you to detain whatever was paid on that account; we see but too much reason to confirm that order, for it appears to us a most flagrant abuse of our power, to the oppression of the Nabob and his country.

PAR. 2. Although it was thought fit to confirm the treaty made with Jaffer Ally Khan in 1757, because the capture of the settlement had involved the inhabitants in one general ruin; and without such a restitution it must have sunk under the calamity, or it would have been the work of many years to restore it to a flourishing condition: no such circumstances existed in the present case; yourselves aggressors in the war, and in a great measure brought on by an illicit trade, of which we shall give our sentiments in the sequel: we fear too, this demand will be found, for the most part, an indemnification for the losses sustained in that very trade, which we shall come to the knowledge of when we receive the accounts laid before the commissioners, and of which we last year directed you to transmit us a copy; therefore, we repeat our orders to detain all sums paid on that account, assuring you, we shall deem you responsible, should any sum have been

been issued out on this account, after the receipt of our orders of last year. Our displeasure at this proceeding is infinitely aggravated by the time and manner in which the demand was made. : Your first demand was for twenty lacks, for which you were content to demand an assignment ; you soon after increase the demand to forty lacks, to which the Nabob is compelled to consent, on the condition it shall stop there. You then increased the demand to fifty three lacks, to which exorbitant sum it is raised by flinging in your outstanding debts, force the Nabob to make part payment, and press him with the utmost severity for further payment, at the very period when the Company's affairs are in the most critical situation, before the battle of Buxar decided whether we should not be extirpated the country ; and at the same time the Company are distressed for money to carry on the war, and the investment, and borrowing the very money paid by the Nabob to our servants, at an interest of 8 *per cent.*

PAR. 3. We find, by your consultation of the 24th of September, you were in actual possession of claims for restitution, to the amount of forty seven lacks and a half of rupees ; we cannot therefore but be astonished, that you did not send us copies thereof, and, by your not doing it, it seems as if it was industriously intended to keep us in the dark, both with respect to the names of the claimants, and the particulars of their respective demands.

PAR. 5. The war being begun against Cossim Ally Khan, we approve the measures you took in conducting it, till the battle of Buxar ; but the demand of the Gauzed-poor country, the undertaking to conquer Shujah Dowla's country for the King, and the treaty you have made with him, we shall give our opinion of separately. The demand you made of having Cossim Ally Khan, Sombre, and the deserters delivered up to you, was consistent with the objects of war, and your success entitled you to add reparation for the expences of the war ; but to demand the Gauzed-poor country, a frontier province, surrounded with warlike people, we conceive was a measure by no means adequate to the end proposed, and absolutely a contradiction

tradition to our repeated directions, not to extend our possessions. The anxiety we feel on this occasion is not to be compared to what we suffer at the engagement you have entered into with the King to conquer Shujah Dowla's country for him: had you pushed on after the battle of Buxar, the force of your arms must soon have brought Shujah Dowla to consent to your terms; but giving away his country rendered him desperate. In his * conference with Major Munro, he plainly tells you, he can expect no assistance till you have conquered the country, and then he shall have friends enough; and the issue, as far your advices reach, is such as we imagined: you are entangled by your connections with him; seem to doubt whether you can accept even your own terms from Shujah Dowla; and in the mean time, your new ally, so far from a support, is even to be supported in the expences of his household; and Nudjuff Cawn, the only man the King pretended to a connection with, by your last advices, is marching against you.

PAR. 19. As our servants have too readily laid hold of every opportunity to exact contributions or procure donations from the late Nabob, we hope nothing of this kind has happened upon the succession of his son, the present Nabob: however, we would have you make the strictest enquiry therein, and inform us of every circumstance, if any such exactions have been made; and in particular, of the names and conduct of all and every the several persons concerned, and oblige them to refund the amount thereof into the Company's cash, for our further orders.

GENERAL LETTER, February 19, 1766.

PARAGRAPH 27.

WITH respect to the treaty with Nudjum ul Dowla, it is proper hereto insert at length the 3th article, which runs in these words; "I do ratify and confirm to the English, the privilege granted

* The King's.

granted them by their Firmans, and several Hissulhookums, of carrying on their trade, by means of their own Dufficks, free from all duties, taxes or impositions, in all parts of the country, excepting in the article of Salt, on which the duty of two and a half per cent is to be levied on the Rowanna, or Houghtley market price. This 5th article is totally repugnant to our own orders, contained in our general letter, by the Kent and Lapwing, dated the 1st of June, 1764; in which we not only expressed our abhorrence of an article in the treaty with Meer Jaffer, literally corresponding with the present 5th article, but in positive terms directed you, in concert with the Nabob, to form an equitable plan for carrying on the inland trade, and transmit the same to us, accompanied by such explanations and remarks as might enable us to give our sentiments and directions thereupon. We must remind you too, that in our said General Letter we expressly directed, that our orders, in our letter of the 8th of February preceding, which were to put a final and effectual end to the inland trade in salt, bettle-nut, and tobacco, and in all other articles produced and consumed in the country, should remain in force until an equitable and satisfactory plan could be formed and adopted; as, therefore, there is not the least latitude given you for concluding any treaty whatsoever respecting this inland trade, we must, and do consider what you have done as an express breach and violation of our orders, and as a determined resolution to sacrifice the interest of the Company, and the peace of the country, to lucrative and selfish views.

PAR. 28. This unaccountable behaviour puts an end to all confidence in those who made this treaty, and forces us to resolve on measures for the support of our authority, and the preservation of the Company; we do therefore pronounce, that every servant concerned in that trade stands guilty of a breach of his covenants with us, and of our orders; and in consequence of this resolution, we positively direct, that if that treaty is now subsisting, you make a formal renunciation, by some solemn act, to be entered on your records, of all right under the said treaty, or otherwise, to trade in salt, bettle-

beetle-nut and tobacco, and that you transmit this renunciation of that part of the treaty in form to the Nabob in the Persian language. Whatever government may be established, or whatever unforeseen occurrences may arise, it is our resolution to prohibit, and we do absolutely forbid, this trade of salt, beetle-nut and tobacco, and of all articles that are not for export and import according to the spirit of the Firmaun, which does not in the least give any latitude whatsoever for carrying on such an inland trade. And moreover we shall deem every European concerned therein, directly or indirectly, guilty of a breach of his covenants, and direct that he be forthwith sent to England, that we may proceed against him accordingly; and every native, who shall avail himself of our protection to carry this trade on, without paying all the duties due to the government equally with the rest of the Nabob's subjects, shall forfeit that protection, and be banished the settlement; and we direct that these resolutions be signified publickly throughout the settlement.

LETTER to the SELECT COMMITTEE, May 17, 1766.

ON the 19th of last month we received the several packets, committed to the care of Captain Griffin, in which was your letter of the 30th of September, one from Lord Clive, and a general letter, both dated the same day.

PAR. 2. As some of the most important affairs have fallen under your management, which have ever occurred since the Company had a being, it is with the utmost satisfaction we observe, with what zeal, and true regard to the interest of your employers, you have pursued such measures, not only with respect to the political systems of the country, but the arduous task of discovering and laying open to our view, the infidelity, rapaciousness, and misbehaviour of our

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servants in general, of all which you may be fully assured, we have the highest and most grateful sense.

PAR. 3. As stability to our plans for a peaceable possession of our acquisitions, and a thorough reformation in our servants in general, are objects of the greatest importance, and in which the presence of Lord Clive is essentially necessary, we made it our unanimous and earnest request, that his Lordship would continue another season in Bengal; and which we here again repeat, in confidence and hopes of his Lordship's ready acquiescence, to complete what he has laid so good a foundation for; as you will observe by the accompanying triplicate of a letter we addressed to his Lordship, dated the 2d instant; which, as the occasion was so important, we sent over land; for fear the Mercury, by which you will receive this, should not reach Bengal, before the departure of his Lordship.

PAR. 4. Although we think you have made a most unexpected progress, in investigating the many new and important affairs that have come before you, yet we consider what you have done as necessarily imperfect, 'till you have had some experience of the effect of your regulations; you must not therefore look on the following observations and directions as carrying any disapprobation of your conduct in general, but as reflections that occur to us on the first view of affairs so totally new to us; and we trust intirely to the continuance of your zealous endeavours, to bring this great work to perfection.

PAR. 5. Before we proceed any further, we would have it observed, that although this letter is addressed to our President and Select Committee, by way of answer to theirs of the 30th of Sept. last; yet, as it contains matters of general importance to the affairs of the presidency, it is our meaning that the same should be laid before the President and council, and be attended to, and the same regard paid to every part thereof, to all intents and purposes, as if it had been directed to them in the usual manner of a general letter.

PAR. 6. From the sentiments we expressed in every one of our late letters, you will easily judge the great pleasure it gave us to see

see the war with Shujah Dowla ended so conformably to our wishes. We always esteemed the power of that Subah, the strongest barrier we could have against the invasions of the northern powers, and of the Morattas, which have so long laid desolate the northern provinces; and had the impolitic, injudicious views of our late governor and council been followed, and the King or Nudjuff Khan, been left in possession of Shujah Dowla's country, we are convinced they would not have had weight and abilities to have supported themselves; and we must either have had their wars to maintain at that immense distance, or they would have been drove back upon us, and brought the war down to our own frontiers, and even into our own provinces. Nothing could so effectually restore that country to its former state, as putting its natural prince in the full possession of his dominions; and we are equally pleased to see the care that has been taken of all those who shewed their attachment to us in the course of the war. Bulwant Sing's joining us, at the time he did, was of signal service; and the stipulation in his favour, was what he was justly intitled to.

PAR. 7. Equally politic and prudent are the concessions in favour of the King, whose interest was best considered by the restoring Shujah Dowla to his country, the only Subah in Indostan who is ever likely to support him in his pretensions to the empire. The revenue agreed to be paid him, must be, in the eyes of the Indian powers, a mark of our respect to the royal blood, and an acknowledgment of his right. We approve also the being guarantee for Nudjuff Khan; and, finally, we hope the moderation and attention paid to all those who have espoused our interest in this war, will restore our reputation in Indostan, and that the Indian powers will be convinced no breach of treaty will ever have our sanction. We also hope the fifty lacks, stipulated to be paid by Shujah Dowla, will, before this reaches you, be discharged, and his dominions entirely evacuated by our troops; and that none will remain under pretence of protection to the King's person, for that may lead to pretensions to support him in his claim to the empire; a measure quite contrary to

to our views, being determined to make the provinces of Behgal, Bahar, and Orissa, the utmost bounds of our political views of possessions.

PAR. 8. The article in the treaty with Shujah Dowla, stipulating a trade duty free through his dominions, we direct to be confined solely to the Company's trade; and even in that sense of it, we mean only if his dominions produce any goods fit for the European markets, or if it can be made the means of extending our trade in the woollen manufactory, or any other European goods.

PAR. 9. We come now to consider the great and important affairs of the Dewannee, on which we shall give our sentiments, with every objection that occurs to us.

PAR. 10. When we consider that the barrier of the country government was entirely broke down, and every Englishman throughout the country armed with an authority that owned no superior, and exercising his power to the oppression of the helpless natives, who knew not whom to obey; at such a crisis, we cannot hesitate to approve your obtaining the Dewannee for the Company.

PAR. 11. When we look back to the system that Lord Clive and the gentlemen of the Select Committee found established, it presents to us a Subah disarmed, with a revenue of almost two millions sterling, (for so much seems to have been left, exclusive of our demands on him) at the mercy of our servants, who had adopted an unheard-of ruinous principle, of an interest distinct from the Company. This principle shewed itself, in laying their hands upon every thing they did not deem the Company's property.

PAR. 12. In the province of Burdwan, the resident and his council took an annual stipend of near eighty thousand rupees *per annum* from the Rajah, in addition to the Company's salary: this stands on the Burdwan accounts, and we fear was not the whole; for we apprehend it went further, and that they carried this pernicious principle even to the sharing with the Rajah of all he collected beyond the stipulated Mulguzarry, or land revenue, overlooking the point of duty to the Company, to whom, properly, every thing belonged that

that was not necessary for the Rajah's support. It has been the principle too, on which our servants have falsely endeavoured to gloss over the crime of their proceedings, on the accession of the present Subah, and we fear would have been soon extended to the grasping the greatest share of that part of the Nabob's revenues, which was not allotted to the Company. In short, this principle was directly undermining the whole fabric; for whilst the Company were sinking under the burthen of the war, our servants were enriching themselves from those very funds that ought to have supported the war. But to Lord Clive and our Select Committee we owe, that the Company are at last considered as principals in the advantages as well as dangers.

PAR. 13. We must now turn our attention to render our acquisitions as permanent as human wisdom can make them. This permanency, we apprehend, can be found only in the simplicity of the execution. We observe the account you give of the office and power of the King's Dewan, in former times, was, "The collecting of all the revenues, and after defraying the expences of the army, and allowing a sufficient fund for the support of the Nizamut, to remit the remainder to Delhi." This description of it is not the office we wish to execute; the experience we have already had in the province of Burdwan, convinces us how unfit an Englishman is to conduct the collection of the revenues, and follow the sly native through all his arts; to conceal the real value of his country; to perplex and to elude the payments. We therefore entirely approve of your preserving the antient form of government, in the upholding the dignity of the Subah.

PAR. 14. We conceive the office of Dewan should be exercised only in superintending the collection and disposal of the revenues, which office, though vested in the Company, should officially be executed by our resident at the Durbar, under the controul of the Governor and the Select Committee; the ordinary bounds of which controul should extend to nothing beyond the superintending the collection of the revenues, and the receiving the money from the

Nabob's treasury to that of the Dewannee, or the Company; and this we conceive to be neither difficult nor complicated, for at the annual Poonah the government settles with each Zemindar his monthly payments for the ensuing year; so the monthly payments of the whole, from the Nabob's Dewan, is but the total of the monthly payment of each Zemindar, which must be strictly kept up, and, if deficient, the Company must trace what particular province, Rajah, or Zemindar, has fallen short of the monthly payments; or, if it is necessary to extend the power further, let the annual Poonah, by which we mean the time when every landholder makes his agreement for the ensuing year, be made with the consent of the Dewan, or Company: this we conceive to be the whole office of the Dewannee. The administration of justice, the appointment to offices, Zemindaries, in short, whatever comes under the denomination of civil administration, we understand is to remain in the hands of the Nabob or his ministers.

PAR. 31. We have in all our letters, from the first knowledge we had of our servants being engaged in the inland trade, strongly discountenanced and forbid it. We have always treated it as a breach of our orders, a violation of the Firmaun, and, in a great measure, the cause of the late wars. The amazing sums demanded for restitution, in respect of losses sustained in this trade, have opened our eyes to the vast extent to which it has been carried. The oppressions of the unhappy natives that have attended the carrying it on, and which have pervaded all parts of the Nabob's dominions, have convinced us, that a monopoly of the necessaries of life, in any hands whatever, more especially in the hands of the English, who are possessed of such an over-ruling influence, is liable to the greatest abuses.

PAR. 32. Much has been urged by our servants, at different times, in favour of the right of this trade, which we have always treated as a most absurd claim. The words of the Firmaun are, "whatever goods the English company shall bring or carry, &c. are duty free."

PAR.

PAR. 33. To suppose that the court of Delhi could mean by these words, a monopoly of the necessities of life over their own subjects, is such an absurdity, that we shall not lose time or words in trying to refute it: such a construction seems never to have been thought of till the year 1762. We do not find that Lord Clive, or the gentlemen who conducted our affairs at the time of the treaty with Meer Jaffer in 1757, conceived they had acquired by those treaties any one additional privilege of trade. We had indeed, in the year 1762, some private intimations of our servants being engaged in such a trade, which we took notice of in our letter of the 19th of February, 1762, to which no reply was made; but there appeared nothing of it on our records, till a letter from the Nabob Cossim Ally in consultation, the 18th of October, 1762, wherein he complains of the conduct of the Company's servants at Dacca, in forcing the country merchants to take tobacco, and other things, above the market price. Soon after, the debates on the Mongheer treaty explained to us that the English had been concerned in this trade for some years; and, indeed, three years possession had taught them to look on it as a matter of right; and vindicate it as such in their negociations with Cossim Ally Khan.

PAR. 34. As soon as it came to our knowledge, we strictly forbade it, under date of the 18th of February, 1764, which our governor and council took into consideration the 17th of October, though they presumed, at the same time, to carry it on in defiance to those orders.

PAR. 35. You now desire our concurrence in it, for the advantage of the Company, and of the Company's servants.

PAR. 36. With respect to the Company, it is neither consistent with their honour nor their dignity to promote such an exclusive trade, as it is now more immediately our interest and duty to protect and cherish the inhabitants, and to give them no occasion to look on every Englishman as their national enemy; a sentiment, we think, such a monopoly would necessarily suggest. We cannot, therefore, approve the plan you have sent us for trading in salt,

beetle-

beetle-nut, and tobacco, or admit of this trade in any shape whatever, and do hereby confirm our former orders for its entire abolition; and we must here observe to you, that we continue in the same opinion which you find expressed in our letters of the 24th of December and 10th of February last, that every one concerned in this trade, even before the receipt of our letter of the 1st of June, 1764, has been guilty of a breach of his covenants.

PAR. 37. The opinions of the first lawyers in this kingdom confirm our sentiments; and whenever we receive the list of the claims for restitution, we shall then, with precision, know whom we are to call to account for these illicit practices. We are fully sensible that these innovations and illegal traffic laid the foundation of all the bloodshed, massacres, and confusion, which have happened of late years: we cannot suffer ourselves to indulge a thought towards the continuance of them, upon any conditions whatsoever: no regulations can, in our opinions, be formed, that can be effectual to prevent the like consequences which we have seen. We consider it too as disgraceful, and below the dignity of our present situation, to allow of such a monopoly; and were we to allow of it under any restrictions, we should consider ourselves as assenting and subscribing to all the mischiefs which Bengal has presented to us for these four years past; at the same time we don't mean that the ancient duties upon those commodities, which constitute part of the revenues of Bengal, should be abolished; but we leave the adjustment of those duties to your judgment and consideration; and here we must enjoin you to have particular regard and attention to the good of the natives, whose interest and welfare are now become our primary care; and we earnestly recommend it to you, that you take the most effectual methods to prevent these great necessities of life from being monopolized by the rich and great amongst themselves, and by that means the poor and indigent becoming liable to those grievances and exactions, which we mean to prevent our own people from being guilty of.

LETTER

LETTER to the PRESIDENT and SELECT COMMITTEE,
November 21, 1766.

PARAGRAPH 33.

WE are very glad to find you continued on friendly terms with Shujah Dowla; and we flatter ourselves the regard you shew in relaxing from the letter of the treaty with him, respecting the time stipulated for the payment of the money due to us, will have a good effect. We wish you to inculcate in Shujah Dowla the idea, that we have no views of extending our possessions, no interest that can clash with his, and that fidelity in our mutual engagement must give strength to both, and be productive of mutual harmony between the Company and him.

WE are very glad to find you continued on friendly terms with Shujah Dowla; and we flatter ourselves the regard you shew in relaxing from the letter of the treaty with him, respecting the time stipulated for the payment of the money due to us, will have a good effect. We wish you to inculcate in Shujah Dowla the idea, that we have no views of extending our possessions, no interest that can clash with his, and that fidelity in our mutual engagement must give strength to both, and be productive of mutual harmony between the Company and him.

EXTRACTS

EXTRACTS
OF
LETTERS from the EAST-INDIA
Company's Servants at Fort St. GEORGE.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *June 28, 1759.*

PARAGRAPH 7.

WE expect from Mr. Andrews a particular account of the rents and revenues of Mazulipatam; we understand they are very considerable, and recommend to you, in case the affairs of India are to be settled (as we hope they will) at the conclusion of a peace, to insist at least on such possessions and privileges at Dui Island and Mazulipatam, as were granted to the Company by the Mogul. Furruch Seer Malabat Jung, by his treaty with Colonel Ford, has declared void his former grants in favour of the French, and assigned Mazulipatam with all its dependencies to the Company. We will endeavour, by the assistance of Colonel Ford, to obtain a Firmaun for the same from the present Mogul, that you may have all possible grounds for asking a confirmation of the whole by the treaty of peace. With regard to possessions in the Arcot province (as no doubt you will endeavour to procure the confirmation of as many as possible) as a security for the payment of the Nabob's debt, we shall only
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take the liberty to advise that you require such chiefly as incircle your settlements. Trichenopoly, Madura, Tuinevelly, remain in our possession; Syringham was possessed by the French at the time of the declaration of war, but is now in our hands; and as it is one of the dependencies of Trichenopoly, belonging always to that government, we hope the claim of the French will not be admitted.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, September 3, 1763.

PARAGRAPH 4.

WITH respect to the grants of the countries mentioned in our president's letter to the Secret Committee, we are now negotiating with the Nabob concerning them, and hope, that by the next advices, we shall have the pleasure of acquainting you with his having ceded to the Company a part of the country contiguous to Madras, to a very handsome amount.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, November 7, 1763.

PARAGRAPH 4.

THE grants of the countries from the Nabob which we mentioned in our letter of the 3d September to have been negotiating with him, we have now the satisfaction of informing your Honours are made over to the Company. The tract of country assigned over by these grants, extends as far as the river Marcaun, near Allumparva, to the southward, and to Chieracot, a little to the northward of Pulacat, and now takes in the two Conjeverams to the westward. The exact value of them cannot at present be ascertained, but we imagine they will bring in at least two lacks and a half of Pagodas yearly, and we hope their value will encrease as they come to be better cultivated.

GENERAL

[1764]

GENERAL LETTER, *May 4, 1764.*

PARAGRAPH 46.

A Translate of the Nabob's late grants, and the most particular account we have been yet able to procure of every district and village is entered, on consultation the 1st of December, and we are endeavouring to find out the titles of the different claimants of Jaghires, and to prevail on the Nabob to provide for them in his own territories.

LETTER from the NABOB of ARCOT, to the COURT of DIRECTORS of the EAST-INDIA-COMPANY.

BEING, by the providence of God, and your powerful assistance, in peaceable and quiet possession of my whole government, I beg leave in this manner to express my gratitude, and to assure you of my unshaken attachment to your interests and property; happy if by any means I can ever make you a suitable return for the mighty support you have constantly afforded me, in the most difficult circumstances, of which I shall ever retain a most grateful sense; and it shall be my duty to promote every branch of your trade and investments, particularly in broad cloth, which your President has strongly recommended to me. My troops are already clothed in the manufacture of the Company, and it shall be my care to increase its demand. The stated payments fixed for the last year, have been duly discharged, though not without difficulty. The reduction of the rebel Usoff Khan, having involved me in a most incredible expence, the remaining ballance shall be paid off as soon as possible; but in this I must request your patience, it being necessary my country should be restored to its cultivation, and the poor inhabitants (distressed and harrassed for near twenty years) be encouraged.

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It is some satisfaction that by your favour, however, they at present enjoy more peace and prosperity than their neighbours.

Conscious of the happiness of your protection, many applications have been made to me by the Morattas, and the most powerful chiefs around me, to take the charge of the Decan, which I shall, agreeable to the injunctions of your president, continue to decline till you approve of the undertaking, which must be attended with the greatest advantage to both. Salabas Jung being no more, a perpetual war reigns. His brother Nizam, Ally, &c. constantly opposing each other, have lost all authority for want of a legal appointment, so that almost the whole Decan is laid waste, and the inhabitants are miserable.

Your concurrence and assistance, will, I am persuaded, soon enable me to obtain quiet possession, and you will have the high reputation of restoring peace to the Decan.

Out of regard to your friendship, and the earnest solicitation of your governor, I have determined to grant the Company compleat Sunnuds for the whole Jaghire, which is a very considerable addition to what I granted in the time of Mr. Pigot.

I cannot conclude this letter without acknowledging the constant attention of your government here, to promote my welfare and prosperity, so that I am free of apprehensions, and I trust that you will make it your first care always to place men well inclined and well-qualified in a government on which so much depends.

Madras, January 29, 1765.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *October 14, 1765.*

PARAGRAPH 37.

WE have now the pleasure to acquaint you, that the Nabob has made the grants of the countries assigned by him to the Company as full and compleat as we could wish. That the only two villages excepted therein, belonging to the Nabob's mother and his son, are but of very small value, and which we could not in

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opposition to his earnest solicitations, desire him to include therein. A translate of the Sunnuds comes a number in the packet, and it is a further satisfaction to acquaint you that they are now let for seven years, for three hundred and twenty four thousand pagodas *per annum*, which with the revenues of the Chinimanaigue Pollam and Naigue-petta, amounting to about one thousand pagodas yearly, which are kept under the management of the chief, &c. at Cudalore for the purpose of carrying on the investment, makes the whole amount yearly, to three hundred and twenty five thousand pagodas.

PAR. 38. Your two letters addressed to the Nabob, with the Chinese temple, were presented to him in a suitable manner, and gave him the greatest satisfaction; and as it was necessary that some present should be made when your letter of the 1st of June 1764 was delivered, we procured a couple of very handsome cuttaries set with precious stones, one of which was presented in the name of the Company to the Nabob, and the other to his son.

PAR. 63. We have now the satisfaction of acquainting you that Lord Clive has, in consequence of our President's application to him, obtained from the Mogul Sunnuds to the five northern Sircars, as well as a confirmation of the Jaghire granted by the Nabob to the Company; a translate of the Firmauns comes a number in the packet. We have judged it most prudent to defer for the present, taking possession of Sircars as we know not how far the gentlemen in Bengal may stand in need of assistance from us, for the protection of the very considerable possession they have lately acquired; and indeed we could not expect to reap any considerable advantage from them, for some time, as the revenues for the next year are already mortgaged by Hufain Ally Khan, to enable him to make good his payments to the Subah, and for the support of his troops employed in reducing them to obedience. In the mean time, our being in possession of the Sunnuds will it put in our power to prevent the French from getting any footing therein, or to take possession, as shall appear most for our interest.

SEPARATE

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, *April 1, 1766.*

PARAGRAPH 1.

IN the supplement to our general letter of the 14th October 1765, by the Earl of Middlesex, your Honours were informed of the Firmaun being granted by the Mogul for the five northern Sircars and our intention to defer taking possession, 'till the situation of your affairs both here and at Bengal might favour such an undertaking. Your Honours were also, in the 23d and 24th paragraphs of the said letter, advised of the endeavours we were using to bring about an accommodation between Hufsin Ally Khan the present Fouzdar and Setteramrauze.

PAR. 2. The probable duration of peace and tranquility on this coast and at Bengal has since determined us to take the necessary measures for establishing your authority in the Sircars; and that your Honours may be more particularly acquainted with our proceedings in this important business, we have kept them distinct from our other transactions. We shall now lay before you the steps we have taken to accomplish our views.

PAR. 3. To do this most effectually, and at the same time to preserve the tranquility of the country, it was necessary to consider the state and condition of the Sircars, with regard to the present management of them, as also their revenues, the opposition we might meet with in taking possession, and the force that would be required to reduce them to obedience and the expence of that force.

PAR. 4. All the Sircars have hitherto, at least for many years, been regarded as an appendage to the Subah of the Decan, notwithstanding the little benefit he has reaped from them. Salabat Jung the late Subah in the year 1752, gave the Sircar of Condavir on this side the Kistna to the French East-India Company as a perpetual Jaghire, and soon after ceded to them the other four, north of that river, for the maintenance of their troops under Buffey in his immediate service. When Colonel Forde took Mazulipatam (and put an end to the authority of the French in the Decan) all the five Sircars were restored to the dominion of the Subah,

Subah, who consented at the same time that the family of Vizeramrauze should continue in the management of the Chicacole Sircar as a reward for their fidelity and attachment to the Company. The Sircar of Condaïr or Guntoor, was also conferred as a Jaghire on Bazalet Jung, third brother of Salabet Jung, which he still holds, or at least gets an annual tribute for it. The other Sircars have been put under the management of different persons, and in 1762 they were offered as a Jaghire to the Company on the same terms by which they were formerly held by the French; but sending assistance into the Decan was judged too dear a purchase. Hussain Ally, the Ambassador on this occasion, being unsuccessful fell into disgrace, however by the Nabob's assistance, and the advance of a considerable sum of money, he last year made his peace with the Soubah Nizam Ally, and procured for himself the management of those countries, and was joined, at the request of the Subah, by a detachment of your troops in expectation of re-establishing a proper government, which for many years past has been so unsettled that the Subah received little or nothing from it. The Zemindars never accounted with any of his managers unless compelled by force, and the country has been generally plundered by the strongest of the contending parties. Hussain Ally supported by the Company, though with a very small force, got possession of the Sircars of Rajahmundry, Elloor and Mustaphanagur immediately, and we had for some time been endeavouring to bring about an accommodation between him and Setteramrauze regarding the Chicacole Sircar.

PAR. 5. From the above state of the Country, and no rain during the season, it was not to be expected that the revenues would amount to any thing near their usual value; but we judge that if they would produce the first year sufficient to defray the expence of reducing them, it would be well worth while to get possession, as the great object of preventing the French or any other power from getting a footing there would be effected, your investment be considerably increased, and when the country was properly settled, it could not fail of producing a very handsome clear income to our Honourable Masters. A statement of the Sircars of Rajahmundry, Elloor, Mustaphanagur, and

and Condavir, your Honours will find in our proceedings on this subject. Chicacole is not so well known; but when the Pollygars are rendered to obedience, and that country well settled, its value will not be less than twelve lacks of rupees *per annum*.

PAR. 6. The powers from whom we might expect any opposition were Nizam Ally, Hufain Ally, and Bazalat Jung; the first we naturally supposed would do every thing in his power to prevent our success, and stir up the Zemindars to oppose us, and otherwise throw every obstacle in our way; for though he can be no great loser, with respect to his revenues, yet it will in some measure hurt his reputation and diminish his authority, and he will naturally be jealous of our neighbourhood, and suspect our views are more extensive, notwithstanding any assurances we may give him of our inclination to be on the most friendly terms, and of our advancing no further than the limits of the grants. His consequence, however, is at present in a very declining state, and his influence with the Zemindars by no means sufficient to prevail on them to oppose us against their own interest and safety.

PAR. 7. With regard to Hufain Ally we had not much to apprehend from him, as by a private agreement he had before entered into with the President, he had engaged to put us in possession of the Sircars whenever required; and he was promised that a reasonable maintenance should in such case be settled on him; and as by his long residence in that country, and the great share he has had in the government, he is perfectly well acquainted with it, his assistance may be of use to enable us to enter into a proper regulation; we have therefore under consideration, the settling an allowance according to agreement, and to engage him to exert himself in this business.

PAR. 8. Bazalet Jung, we concluded would be alarmed at the publication of the Sunnuds; and being connected with Mararow and the Nabobs of Cudapah and Connoul, he could endeavour to oppose us; we therefore thought it most necessary to defer taking any measures with regard to the Sircar of Condavir, till your authority was perfectly established in those on the other side of the Krishna, though we do not apprehend much opposition from Bazalet Jung, that country being surrounded by your own and the Nabob's possessions.

EXTRACTS

OF

LETTERS to the EAST-INDIA

Company's Servants at Fort St. GEORGE.

GENERAL LETTER, March 13, 1761.

PARAGRAPH 58.

WE very much approve of the orders you gave Mr. Andrews, and we hope to receive a compleat description of our valuable acquisition of Mazulipatam, which, from accounts in our possession, appears to be very lucrative. You judged right, in putting us to no further expence at this settlement than what necessity required.

GENERAL LETTER, February 9, 1764.

PARAGRAPH 12.

WE shall hope, by your next advices, to be informed, that your negociation with the Nabob for the grants for the countries you mention, contiguous to Madras, will have been finished, in the satisfactory manner you give us reason to expect.

GENERAL

GENERAL LETTER, *June 1, 1764.*

PARAGRAPH 36.

WE have the further pleasure of observing, that the Nabob has made over to the Company a tract of country which extends as far as the river Marcon, near Allumparva, to the southward, and to Chicracot, a little to the northward of Pulicat, taking in the two Conjeverams to the westward, the revenues whereof, you estimate, will amount to about two lacks and an half of pagodas yearly: this grant, from the vicinity of the district, as well as the income, appears to be very advantageous, and shews, among many other instances, the good inclinations and gratitude of the Nabob to the Company.

PAR. 37. We have writ a letter to the Nabob by this conveyance (a copy whereof is inclosed for your information) expressing our most grateful sentiments for his continual attachment to the Company, which you are to deliver to him, in our name, in such an honourable manner as may be most agreeable to him; and at the same time that the whole country may know the sincerity of our past, and the warmth of our present friendship.

GENERAL LETTER, *December 24, 1765.*

PARAGRAPH 36.

IT gives us great satisfaction to observe, by your last accounts of our affairs under your management, that you think them in so flourishing a condition. The benefits arising from trade are always more pleasing to us than such as are produced by the means of military influence, which we shall ever consider as precarious: the increase thereof in our land and sea customs is a circumstance very agreeable, more especially as we observe, that though upon
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the whole the increase upon the sea customs was considerable, yet the duty upon grain in particular was decreased, owing to a smaller importation, as you have plenty enough at home.

SEPARATE GENERAL LETTER, December 24, 1763.

PARAGRAPH 2.

IT is but too evident from the Nabob's letter to us (a translation of which you sent us by the Medway) that his ambition would lead him into an attempt to gain the Subaship of Decan, if we were wild enough to support him in it: he tells us, indeed, that in consequence of your injunctions he shall continue to decline the invitations he has received to that end from the Morattas, and other chiefs, until we approve the undertaking, which most assuredly we never mean to do; for the spirit of conquest is by no means that which rules with us, and which we hope you will never suffer to gain the ascendant of you in this case. Such an enterprize would be most obviously to risk the substance (and a very valuable one) for a mere shadow. Our answer to his letter you will receive in the packet by the Lioness, dated the same day with this letter, together with a copy, which you will cause to be translated into the Persian language, and presented, together with the original, in the usual and requisite form.

Copy of a Letter to his Excellency Omdatul Muluck Serajee Dowla, Nabob Anwarodean Khan Bahadar Mansoor Jung, Subah of Payen, Gaut Carnatica, and of the City of Arcot.

AT length we have the inexpressible satisfaction to learn, that peace and tranquility are now perfectly restored in your provinces. Your Excellency's letter to us from Madras, dated the

29th of January 1765, makes us happy by that information, and by the continuance you promise us of your friendship, the acknowledgements you at the same time express of the assistance the Company constantly furnished during the late wars, towards obtaining that desirable end, give us fresh cause to applaud ourselves for having steadily pursued, through all difficulties and dangers, the object we first had in view, which was the establishing you firmly in your government. This great work thus perfected, by the reduction of the rebel Ussé Khan, the next attention should be to preserve that peace which has cost so much blood and treasure to acquire, and this we do not in the least doubt may be easily effected, so long as your Excellency shall continue united with us in councils and in measures, to defeat the designs of concealed, and attacks of open enemies. The force we intend to keep always on the coast of Chormandel, will, we flatter ourselves, be amply sufficient to oppose the last; it is chiefly to your wisdom and sincere friendship, we trust for counteracting the machinations of the first.

The tedious and difficult expedition to Madaga, we see with concern, has occasioned a very heavy expence; nevertheless as tranquility is now perfectly restored in every part of your government, we hope you will, without much difficulty, be able in a short time to reimburse the sums we are in advance on that account. Your country, we are sensible, must have suffered greatly during the war, and as it is our earnest desire that the people should share the blessings of peace, and be thankful to you for them, we would not therefore be more urgent with you, than our affairs absolutely require.

Were it not for the great opinion we have of your opinion we must say, we should have been somewhat alarmed at the mention you make of the invitation given you by the Morattas and other chiefs to take upon you the government of the Decan: but when we set before our eyes the dangerous consequences of such an attempt, we assure ourselves that it was your first thoughts only on so important a subject, which out of your great confidence on our friendship, you immediately communicated to us; and that upon reflection you will be

so thoroughly sensible of the impropriety of such an undertaking, that you would yourself wish to decline it. You will, we persuade ourselves, see that being but just seated in the quiet possession of your government, it is in the first place necessary to restore order where confusion so lately reigned, and establish yourself in the hearts of your people; this done, by a mild and just government you will feel too sensibly the solid happiness of ruling in peace and security to risk it again, in fresh broils and anxieties, for a government more precarious too. Our views are confined to a much narrower compass; to support you in your present government; to maintain its peace, and extend our trade, are the great objects of our desire, and nothing we hope shall compel us beyond them.

We return your Excellency our hearty thanks for the compleat Summums you promised us for the Jaghire lands you granted in Governor Pigot's time, including the villages which were then excepted. As a small testimony of our acknowledgement, we have sent a coach to be presented to you in our name by our governor and council, and we hope it will be agreeable to you.

In witness whereof we hereunto affix our great seal in London, this eighth day of the month of December, in the year of our Lord, 1765.

L. S.

The times we are in advance on that account. Your country, we are sensible, must have suffered greatly during the war, and as it is our earnest desire that the people should share the blessings of peace, and be thankful to you for them, we would not therefore be more urgent with you, than our affairs absolutely require.

We are it not for the great opinion we have of your opinion we must say, we should have been somewhat alarmed at the mention you make of the invitation given you by the Maratta and other chiefs to take upon you the government of the Decan: but when we let before our eyes the dangerous consequences of such an attempt, we assure you, that your first thoughts only on so important a subject, which out of your great confidence on our friendship, your majesty communicated to us; and that upon reflection you will be

EXTRACTS

Extracts of Letters from the East-India Company Servants at Bombay, relative to Treaties and Grants from the Country Powers, from the Year 1756 to 1766, both Years inclusive.

Select Letter, 13th March, 1757.

Paragraph 6.] **O**N the 28th of January the President laid before us a letter and proposals he had received from Mr. Brabazon Ellis, Chief of Surat, respecting a treaty between the Honourable Company, Suffidir Khan and Ali-Novas Khan, for expelling the Sciddee from Surat, confining the Dutch trade within proper bounds on this part of the coast, and obtaining a Royal Firmaun for your Honours enjoying the Tanka, now allowed the Sciddee, on our joining to fix them in the sole government of that city and Castle, which plan they proposed carrying into execution the middle of next month; and we having duly considered it, wrote Mr. Ellis that we had thoughts of entering into it, but judged it would be much better for us to undertake it after September next, unless it could be done sooner than the time proposed, as we thought it might be vastly inconvenient to us, because in all probability the work might not be effected before the Monsoon might prevent the withdrawing our people, and prove of fatal consequence

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to

to this island. With respect to the French, who we judge are most likely to attack us in August or September next, after which we cannot expect any French squadron from the islands, without having timely notice of it, as they must then come up the coast, which might enable us to withdraw our people from Surat in due time. To which Mr. Ellis replied, Suffidir Khan and Ali-Novas Khan had urged, that attempting to prosecute their designs before next month, would be attended with an immediate stagnation of commerce in that city; and not only prove very detrimental to the place in general, but deprive themselves of the export-customs, at a season when they benefited more by them than during all the rest of the year, and therefore agreed to defer it till after September; but Mr. Ellis remarking, that should they execute their purpose in the rains, without our assistance (by bribing the people in the castle) our proposals would not be deemed binding, without previously entering into a treaty with them to comply with those proposals, by agreeing to furnish them with the assistance they desired. We therefore referred it to Mr. Ellis to conclude such a treaty with them, and to take such precautions in the drawing it up, as may prevent the Honourable Company being deprived of the Tanka, in case an opportunity should offer for Suffidir Khan and Ali Novas Khan accomplishing their designs before the end of September next, when we shall
be

be able to fulfil our part of the treaty ; but Mr. Ellis writes under the seventh instant, that since resolving to defer their designs as above, the Sciddee had paid a visit at the Durbar, and their thoughts were then diverted from this affair, but we shall continue to take all proper measures to effect it.

Select Letter 7th February, 1758.

Paragraph 11th.] On the 27th ultimo Mr. Ellis, advised us by Pattamar express, that Suffon Khan died suddenly in the morning of the 22d, as is supposed by poison given him by the instigation of Ali Novas Khan ; representing likewise that the Shroffs had offered him to render themselves responsible, by bond, for any deficiency of two lacks of rupees per annum for five years, if we would extricate them from the distress with which they are threatened through this accident, by seizing on the Castle and Tanka in behalf of your Honours ; the oppressions which Ali Novas Khan has lately exercised is intimated in the accompanying duplicate of our last address, and we deem the Shroffs proposal so advantageous, that immediate directions were sent to Mr. Ellis to get the obligation executed by them, and a messenger at the same time dispatched to Faris Khan, who is one of Ali Novas Khan's most formidable rivals for the Nabobship, esteemed by the inhabitants of Surat in general, and one who has always

ways shewn a regard for your Honours interest, to invite him hither, as there is so good a prospect of benefiting your affairs by this means, which we think is now become absolutely necessary ; as Ali Novas Khan, who has now acquired the chief influence in the government of that city, has for some time demonstrated his being in close alliance with the Dutch and Sciddee, in opposition to your interest and privileges, from which combination we have the greatest reason to apprehend your trade will be entirely obstructed, if vigorous measures are not taken to maintain your just pretensions thereto. And as the season is now far advanced, that we can at any time recal our forces from Surat, at a short warning, in case of any alarm from the French on the Malabar coast, and your Honours ships Hawke, Latham, and Revenge being ready to assist, we have resolved on sending them with the Guardian, and all the rest of the cruziers now at the Presidency, with a proper military force, under command of Sir James Fowlis, Bart. to the Bar, as soon as a sufficient number of stores and provisions can be got ready for their use, which we hope will be effected by the 15th instant ; and have accordingly advised Mr. Ellis, hoping our conduct herein will meet your Honours approval, as we think it unavoidable, and a very favourable opportunity to endeavour to obtain redress for the many injuries you have received from that government.

Select

Select Letter, 8th April, 1758.

Paragraph 49th.] **F**ARIS Khan at length likewise arrived at Parell, the 11th at night, and the day following articles were executed and exchanged between the President and him, for undertaking the expedition to put your Honours in possession of the Castle and Tanka, and Faris Khan in the Durbar, as entered after consultation; and Faris Khan acquainting us that he should forthwith return to Basseeen, and be ready to proceed, on the remainder of our forces calling upon him there by the 7th ultimo. We freighted such vessels and boats as were necessary for embarking our men and stores, and resolved to prepare every thing for setting out, so that our forces might have arrived with Faris Khan, as he desired; but on the 14th we received a letter from Major Chalmers, offering sundry articles to our consideration, relative to his detachment serving on it, and urging that it was in consequence of a consultation with his officers, to which we immediately replied agreeable to our consultation that morning. And as among other requests they wanted to have field and garrison batta at the same time; we insisted on a speedy answer, whether they would proceed without our granting both. To which he answered, that Colonel Adlercron's officers would attest what he advanced of their being allowed both together at Madras, adding that the difference was so trifling to your Honours, that he was sorry it was so much as thought of; and persisting in his expectations of it, we wrote him, that allowing the gentlemen at Madras had given it to Colonel Adlercron's officers, it was equally out of our power to comply, as your Honours had greatly censured our allowing his detachment garrison batta only, which inducing him to drop this exorbitant demand, we advised Mr. Ellis on the 15th, by the Hawke,

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that

as he would be so near at hand, which we hoped might be productive of his taking some favourable resolutions for your Honours interests, as with his assistance, we think he might very much promote it, and his own at the same time; and considering all circumstances, we hope your Honours will approve of our design to regulate affairs in Surat, as well as the necessity of our dropping it for the present, on receiving the above intelligence.

General Letter, 27th March, 1759.

91.] **E**DDULL Dadda, a person employed under the contractors for the investment, having been impeded by the Sciddee from repairing hither, was on Mr. Spencer's arrival at Surat permitted to go from our factory to his own habitation; but on the 30th of the same month, he was seized and carried to one of the Sciddee's houses. However, on application being made by your servants to Meah Atchund, they procured his release the same evening, without any mal-treatment to his person, or any money or writing being extorted from him; but Mr. Spencer having represented to us the necessity of having some vessels at the Bar, on account of several belonging to the Morattas laying there, we sent the Bombay Grab and Fox-Ketch thither on the 20th of January, with a double complement of military; and in consultation the 6th ultimo of the select committee, laying before us a letter from Mr. Spencer, addressed to them, containing proposals for undertaking an expedition to Surat, as per copy, under No. 46, and acquainting us that they had got a large body of our troops, with the necessary stores, &c. in forwardness for being embarked, if it met with our concurrence; and we reflecting on the ill treatment that we had long received from that government, and the Sciddee in particular, and the reasonable prospect

pect of bettering your Honours affairs, by getting possession of the Castle and Tanka for your Honours, and putting Faris Khan in the Durbar, or fixing him as Naib (or second) to Meah Atchund, as circumstances might best permit, and likewise on the fair opportunity of carrying those designs into execution, while Admiral Pocock's Squadron might remain here, as the militia might do the town duty, we approved of proceeding thereon, and ordered it to be expedited as much as possible. Our letter of instructions to your servants, and those to Captain Richard Maitland, Commandant of his Majesty's Detachment of Artillery, who we appointed Commander in Chief of the troops, (as Major Mace could not be spared from carrying on the fortification) and Captain John Watson, Commanding officer of our Marine Forces, were accordingly delivered on the 8th ultimo, as per copy, under No. 55. And they proceeded next morning, consisting of the Protector, Guardian, Drake, Success, and Defence Ketches, Triumph, Prahm Fly, Swallow, and Swift Gallwatts, twenty-one (21) Botellas, nineteen fishing boats, and a Pattamar boat, with ship Dragon and Futtee, Dowlet Grab, having on board them about eight hundred (800) of your Honours troops, the King's Detachment of Artillery, and fifteen hundred (1500) Seapoys, accompanied by the Sunderland, and Newcastle men of war. They unluckily did not arrive at the Bar till the 15th, by which they lost the advantage of the intended springs, but it is with infinite satisfaction we have here to repeat our congratulations to your Honours, that late at night on the 4th instant they succeeded in acquiring the possession of the Castle and Tanka, together with the Sciddees fleet and Bunder, and every thing belonging to the Mogul in the Castle, or near it, for your Honours; but your servants write us, that their treaty with the Sciddee secured to him the personal effects of his family,

family, and that the above acquisition cost the lives of more people, and the expence of more ammunition than was expected; the particulars of which, and the other necessary points which we expect they will advise of, shall be noticed to your Honours in the supplement.

92. They mention that their utmost endeavours were used to place Faris Khan in the Durbar, but finding that his friends, notwithstanding the hopes they had given, did not make the least effort in his behalf, even after they had been two days in possession of the Sciddees Bunder, and part of the outward town, but even signified to the Chief, they had rather have him Naib, and that the Nabobship should be continued in Atchund's family; those considerations, with the loss of men in action, and through desertion, also the expence of the stores, made them think it would be imprudent to persist in introducing Faris Khan into the Durbar, against the inclinations of his former partizans, and the interest of Atchund, who, in such case, being united to the Sciddee, might have possibly frustrated the whole design. They therefore judged it their duty to your Honours, and agreeable to our instructions, to fix him Naib, and get Atchund and his party over to their interest, by assuring to him the Nabobship. The Chief accordingly set on foot a treaty with Atchund, which was executed the 4th in the morning, obliging himself to accept of the articles executed by Faris Khan last year with the select committee, as entered in their Diary under the 12th of March, 1758, in which it was stipulated, that he should pay the whole expence of the expedition; and that he should pay the forces two lacks, (200000) rupees, in lieu of booty or plunder, when Atchund immediately opened the inner town gates to your forces, and joined a party of men

[D]

with

with them to bring the Sciddee to terms, which we hope your Honours will approve.

93.] The factory remained unmolested during the whole course of the troubles; but from the Sciddees taking possession of our gardens, and our attack on it, the house and out-houses were considerably damaged; which on account of its valuable situation, close to the outward wall of the city, we have ordered them to repair, and likewise to procure from a merchant the possession of some ground, and a house that lays between the Sciddees Bunder and our garden house, as your servants represent that it will be of the utmost consequence to preserve the communication between them.

Select Letter, March 27, 1759.

Paragraph 6.] **I**N consequence of what we advised your Honours in our former addressees, we, on the 29th of November, immediately after Mr. Ellis's arrival from Surat, took into consideration the situation of affairs there, and what could be done to retrieve and promote your Honours interest in that city; and he declaring it as his opinion, that our getting possession of the Castle and Tanka, would, in a few years, answer better to your Honours than all your possessions on this coast; but that he doubted whether we were able to send a proper force to effect it, which he judged ought to consist of about 1500 regulars, and as many seapoys; and that without such a force could be destined on that service, it would be far preferable to desist from the attempt. We reflected on the importance of speedily anticipating such measures, as it was past all doubt the Morattas intended to pursue (having then a material part of their marine force at the Bar) and which, if carried into execution, would irretrievably obviate

obviate the acquisition of those great advantages to your Honours, which we have long had in view at Surat; and therefore considering the number of military that might be spared from the island on that service, while his Majesty's squadron under Vice Admiral Pocock remained here, we found it would not then admit of our sending more than one thousand (1000) regulars, exclusive of his Majesty's detachment of artillery, but we were in hopes of making up the number of regulars, recommended by Mr. Ellis, with seapoys, and therefore desired Admiral Pocock, and Commodore Stevens, to meet us the 5th and 8th of December, to know how far the Admiral would co-operate with us in an expedition to Surat; when he represented, that the importance of the service on the other coast, with respect to the French, prevented his furnishing us with any men, not only from the risque of weakening the squadron, but retarding its return on the other side of India. But that we might be enabled to send the greater number of men from this garrison on the expedition, the Admiral acquainted us, that if occasion required, he would lend any number from the squadron which might be necessary for our defence, during the absence of our forces; and that, in order to countenance the expedition, he would send one or two of his Majesty's ships to lay at the Bar while it was carrying on.

Paragraph 7.] **Y**OUR Honours will please to observe, some queries we put to Mr. Ellis (who was then indisposed) with his answers in consultation the 8th of December; and your servants at Surat, in a few days after, advising, that Meah Achund had got into Surat, and in conjunction with the Sciddees people, had attacked the Durbar so briskly, that they judged Ali Novas Khan could not hold it longer than the 6th or 7th of that month;

month ; and they likewise mentioning, that they did not apprehend the Morattas would be able to acquire more power in Surat than they before had, we deemed it unnecessary to satisfy Mr. Ellis in the difficulties he started regarding an expedition, as we could not think of carrying our intentions immediately into execution, but we nevertheless agreed to make preparations by degrees ; that in case Mr. Spencer, after seeing the situation of affairs in Surat, should recommend any hostile attempt, we might be in readiness to undertake it ; for though we did not think Meah Atchund a man of fit capacity, yet as he always had a regard for your Honours, we judged that we might possibly find, that after he was fixed in the Durbar, and Mr. Spencer settled at Surat, he might be of some service in our designs there.

Paragraph 8.] **O**UR instructions to Mr. Spencer are entered in the diary under the 18th of December ; and taking into consideration the 16th following a letter of proposals from him, we thought there seemed a probability of such a party in Faris Khan's interest at Surat, that it might greatly facilitate the success of an attempt in his behalf, either to get him fixed in the Durbar, or as Naib to Meah Atchund, and at the same time to take possession of the Castle and Tanka for your Honours. And as it appeared to us of great importance to embrace that advantageous juncture for effecting those purposes, we that day resolved to send such a force with him to Surat, as could possibly be spared from the island, in order for establishing him in one or other of the abovementioned stations, as circumstances might best permit, on his arrival there to take possession of the Castle and Tanka for your Honours.

General

General Letter, 27th February, 1760.

Paragraph 131.] **Y**OUR Honours were acquainted with all occurrences relative to Surat till the Eastcourt's departure. And in our addresses of the 24th July, and 18th December, we have represented the success which has attended Mr. Spencer's application to Delhi, for a firmaun for your Honours holding the government of the Castle and King's fleet at Surat. We have now the pleasure to advise that the whole expence of it has amounted only to (27,000) rupees, instead of forty thousand (40,000) as we at first imagined it might have done. Translate of the firmaun, and several papers relative thereto, go under No. 79, for your Honours perusal. And we having received the original by Mr. Spencer, published it here in due form on the 12th December, as he did at Surat on the 21st of the preceding month.

General Letter; 25th April, 1765.

Paragraph 42.] **Y**OUR Honours were advised under the first head, of the force intended against the Matwans having left this place the 16th January, under the command of Major Gouin by land, and Commodore Watson by sea, to whom we gave joint instructions. And we have the pleasure to acquaint you, they on the 26th of that month took possession of the Matwan Fort, with but little loss, which we in our instructions directed them to destroy; but they representing that it would require a considerable time to effect, besides an expence of upwards of one hundred and thirty thousand (130,000) rupees, as appears by an estimate delivered by Captain Kealing, we ordered them to inform us, whether they judged our keeping them would be of any public utility; whether there was any revenue annexed to them, and to what amount; also what number of men and stores it would require to garrison them.

[E.]

Extracts

*Extracts of Letters to the East India Company's Servants
at Bombay, relative to Treaties and Grants from the
Country Powers, from the Year 1756 to 1766, both
Years inclusive.*

General Letter, dated 31st March, 1756.

Paragraph 78.] **I**N your letter of the 7th of December, 1754, you mention some instances of ill treatment you had for some time experienced from the Surat Government, and observe that it is unavoidable and incumbent on you take a proper satisfaction for the same. Your last letter of the 21st of February following, informs us, that no further incroachments had been made, and gives us hopes, that you should be able to establish matters to our credit. We are satisfied that a good understanding may, by prudent management in general, be kept up with the Surat government, without recourse to hostile attempts, or stopping up the Bar; which are measures never to be made use of without the last necessity. And if it shall at any time appear, that private connections and concerns are the primary cause of misunderstanding with that government (which we apprehend to be too often the case) we shall highly resent our being drawn into trouble and expence on such accounts.

General Letter, dated the 25th April, 1760.

81.] **A**S we now possess the Castle of Surat, we shall here lay down some rules for the conducting of this important concern.

82.] The residence of our servants must be in the Castle; whether it may be proper to hold the factory for the mercantile convenience, and collecting our duties, is entirely left to your judgment.

83.]

83.] Mr. Spencer, as already mentioned, we confirm our Chief at at Surat, and have a confidence in his prudence and discretion that these our orders and regulations will be punctually enforced. In case of Mr. Spencer's death or departure, we give Mr. Thomas Hodges the option of this Chief-ship; but if he declines it, we appoint Mr. William Andrew Price.

84.] We do not apprehend there will be a necessity of having a large garrison, as they can always be succoured from Bombay. However, let there always be a respectable force, such as will prevent a surprize, and secure them from danger. Great order and severe discipline must be kept up, that the soldiers are never suffered to injure or maltreat the inhabitants; in the choice of the military Commander, no regard must be paid to seniority, for he must have temper and abilities, and be esteemed by his people. We dwell the longer on this head, because in such a city many and fatal mischiefs may flow from indiscretions in this department.

85.] It will be your interest to keep fair with the city governor, so long as he acts uprightly; but in all just and equitable instances, you must appear the merchants advocate and protector. The real and natural interest of Surat centers with the traders, and in defending them from oppressions, you establish your own security; such candid and fair behaviour will unite the inhabitants in affection and respect to your government.

86.] Make no ill use of power; distribute justice equally to all; our Chief, we are satisfied, will maintain the character of an upright, faithful servant; and his example, we hope, will inspire others with a just sense of their duty; for if it should appear that mercenary and selfish views bias any one to prejudice public measures, such, without waiting for orders, are instantly to be dismissed our service; and we depend that your vigilance and care will be at all times exercised to free us from avoidable embroils, and in detecting the smallest malpractices at Surat, as you value our favour.

General

General Letter, dated 6th May, 1761.

73.] **I**T is with pleasure we observe you obtained a firmaun from the late Mogul, for our holding the government of the Castle and fleet at Surat, at the expence of 27,000 rupees only, instead of 40,000, you first thought it would come to; as you are of opinion the said firmaun is valid, notwithstanding the revolution which happened soon after upon the murder of that Prince. We think you judged very properly in not applying to his successor for a renewal of our rights and firmauns there, as such a step, you very justly observe, would be a good plea at court for their invalidating them on the demise of every king, and every change of government. However, should applications be at any time really necessary, we place that confidence in your attention to our true interest, that you will take such measures as will secure to the Company this valuable acquisition; and for this purpose we agree with you, it will be necessary to make some allowance to the agent at Delhi, as well for his service in procuring the said firmaun, as advising you of occurrences there, and transacting any thing our concerns may require, when the government is settled. What that allowance ought to be, and the time of applying it properly, must be left to your discretion.

74.] The duty of one per cent. on the trade in general, which you have procured an order from the Surat government, for reimbursing all the charges attending the Surat expedition, and the obtaining the firmaun, we are pleased to observe, you are of opinion will produce about 60,000 rupees a year; as we are likewise to find the stores, taken in the Castle, amounted to so considerable as rupees 177,409. 1. 10. which has been carried to our credit. Mr. Spencer's prevailing upon the Surat government for reducing the number of their troops, which gives an opportunity for lessening ours, merits likewise our approbation, as indeed does the whole of that gentleman's conduct in the Surat affair; and the President's receiving the original firmaun of him, at the head of the troops drawn up on occasion of its publication,

cation, and returning him the thanks of the Board for his services, was a proper piece of respect, and quite agreeable to our sentiments.

75.] You inform us in your letter of the 27th May last, our affairs were carried on at Surat without any molestation, and we hope by your constant care and attention, they will continue to be so. We gave you in order thereto, some general directions in our letter of the last year, for your conduct by way of out-lines; what further remains for making this acquisition truly valuable to the Company, and agreeable to the inhabitants, must be supplied by your judgment and best endeavours.

100.] We approve of your making a standing order at the instance of Mr. Spencer, that the commanding officer at the Castle at Surat, shall at no time deliver it up should he be required thereto by our covenant servants there, if their persons may happen to be under restraint by the country government, as was the case in Mr. Lamb's Chief-ship, without your express directions during the time of such actual restraint only.

104.] It is with great satisfaction we receive your information, that the Castle and Tanka revenues at Surat have yielded to the Sciddeo so considerable a revenue on a medium for some years past, clear of charges as rupees 43,964. 3. per annum for the former, and rupees 120,141 per annum the latter, the management of these revenues to our greatest advantage will require your constant care and attention, and which are accordingly most earnestly recommended to you.

67.] It appears through all your advices received this year, that our affairs at Surat are carried on without any interruption. We hope you will continue to pursue those measures as may best conduce to preserve them in such an agreeable situation. The attention you have paid to the collecting our duties, which are to reimburse us for the great charge we have been at on this account, and the regulations

[F]

you

you have made for this purpose, are satisfactory, and will be much more so if they answer our expectations; for surely it is not unreasonable to expect, by good management, that in time we may hold this valuable acquisition with some profit, though the charge at present exceeds our advantages.

General Letter, dated 12th March, 1766.

82.] The treaty offensive and defensive which you have made with the Bouncella, we cannot approve of until we have further information from you, being contrary to our general sentiments, which you before have been fully informed of. We are willing to think you have sufficient reasons to convince us of the rectitude of this step; but we must here remark, that acquisitions of new territories are, in our opinion, by no means for the interest of the Company; and if you find this last acquisition from the Malwans, is likely to be attended with greater expence than advantage, you are to get rid of it in the best manner you can.

83.] We shall expect from you by the first conveyance, a very particular account of the expence of the Malwan expedition.

A P P E N D I X.

PAPERS relative to the late Bargain with
GOVERNMENT.

APPENDIX

PAPERS relative to the late Bargain with
GOVERNMENT

No. I.

*Dated Jan. 6, 1767, and delivered to the Duke of Grafton
by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India
Company.*

East India House, the 6th Jan. 1767.

At a Committee of Treafury,

THE Committee met to confider of the resolution of the general Court of Proprietors, of the 31st of December last, and the reference of the Court of Directors thereupon on the 2d instant, and what steps it will be proper to take in consequence thereof, which said resolution and reference are in the following words, viz.

At a general Court, 31st Dec. 1766,

Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, “ That it be recommended to the
“ Court of Directors, to treat with the Administration upon such points
“ relative to the general state of the affairs of the Company, as shall
“ seem to them most requisite and conducive to the extending our
“ commerce, securing our possessions, and perpetuating the prosperity
“ of the Company, and to report their proceedings to this Court.”

At a Court of Directors, 2d Jan. 1767.

Ordered, “ That it be referred to the Committee of Treafury, to give
“ directions for preparing the necessary papers; also to confider of the
“ application proper to be made to the Administration in pursuance of

[G]

“ the

“ the resolution of the general Court of the 11th ult. and to repeat
“ their proceedings thereupon from time to time to this Court.”

The Committee, upon considering the said resolution of the General Court, and the consequent reference of the Court of Directors, are of opinion it is requisite and necessary to treat with the Administration on the following points, viz.

For a prolongation of the Company's charter from the year 1780 to the year 1800, or a further term; but to have the whole, sole, and exclusive trade to the East Indies, for three years after the said 1800, in like manner as was provided in the act of the 17th of George the Second.

For an alteration in the inland duty on tea, with a view to prevent smuggling, and thereby increase the legal consumption.

For allowing a draw-back on the exportation of tea, of the whole custom paid thereon, being about £. 24 per cent. upon the gross value at the Company's sales, or at least £. 20 per cent. thereof.

For an alteration on the duties on calicoes and muslins.

For some method of recruiting the Company's military forces at their settlements in the East Indies, by draughting them off for that purpose whenever they shall be wanted.

For strengthening the hands of the Company, if necessary, for the better and more effectual government of their civil and military servants, or others abroad; and for preventing their accepting or receiving presents.

For preventing the commanders of the Company's ships, and others, from carrying to the East Indies all kind of warlike stores clandestinely, or without the licence of the Company.

For desiring the strong interposition of Administration with the Court of France, for payment to the Company of the great sums of money they have expended for the maintainance, transport of French prisoners to Europe, and other expences incurred on these accounts, which, by an account delivered to the Right Honourable Mr. Secretary,

Conway,

Conway, dated 16th Nov. 1763, amounted at that time to the sum of £. 260,687, 8s. 5d.

Also for their interposition with the Court of Spain, with respect to the Manilla ranform, that the Company may be reimbursed the great expences incurred by that expedition; for which it appears by a letter from Lord Egremont to the Secret Committee, dated 23d Jan. 1762, the Company is to have a reasonable compensation; which said expences amounted to, on the 7th of August last, the sum of £. 166,236, 15s. as per an account that day delivered into the Right Honourable the Earl of Shelburne.

No. 2.

*Dated Feb. 6, 1767, and delivered to the Duke of Grafton
by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India
Company.*

East India House.

At a Committee of Treasury, the 6th Feb. 1767,

THE Committee having already offered to the consideration of Administration, the several articles in which their commerce seems to them to require new regulation and present relief in matters to be submitted to the wisdom of Parliament, now beg leave, in hopes of putting an end to all difficulties relative to the acquisitions and possessions in India to suggest.

That the late acquisitions, possessions, and revenues, should be annexed by act of Parliament to the term to be given to the exclusive trade: That if the said possessions, acquisitions, and revenues, should be judged expedient to be annexed to the exclusive trade by act of Parliament,

Parliament, the Committee humbly hope that the Company's term will be extended fifty years from the present time: That the charges of the Company's civil and military establishments be defrayed out of the revenues: That a sum be deducted from the neat sales at home, in the first instance, sufficient to answer all the Company's contingent payments: That a sum also for profits upon the trade of the Company, shall be allowed to the proprietors, and for other purposes as shall be ascertained and agreed upon hereafter; and that the neat remaining surplus be divided between the public and the Company, to each a moiety, which is to be paid in such mode or manner as shall be consistent with the interest of both.

It is also proposed to pay a sum certain of five hundred thousand pounds, in the course of the year, in consideration of the further term requested in the Company's exclusive trade; and that they may be impowered, if necessary, to raise a larger sum for that and other purposes.

This proposition is made as the basis of a negotiation for settling all matters betwixt the public and the company.

No. 3.

Dated Feb. 14, 1767. Questions delivered by the Duke of Grafton to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India Company, for an Explanation of the Papers,
No. 2.

February 14, 1767.

HIS Majesty's servants, before whom the proposition of the Committee of Treasury of the East India House, dated February the 6th, 1757, has been laid, are of opinion, that the different articles are so general, that they require a more particular state and explanations,
before

before their Lordships can form any judgment thereon, particularly on the following heads:

In what sense and extent is the word *annexed* to be understood, as it is used in the paper?

What is the amount of the civil and military establishments proposed to be defrayed?

What is the sum to be detached for contingent payments, and what the nature of those payments?

What is the sum or proportion proposed to be allowed to the Proprietors for profits of trade, and other purpose?

How are the several matters above-mentioned to be ascertained?

And what is the sum thought necessary to be borrowed beyond the 500,000*l.* mentioned in the paper, and for what purpose?

No. 4.

Dated Feb. 20, 1767. Answer to the Questions No. 3.

East India House.

At a Committee of Treasury, the 20th of Feb. 1767,

THE Committee of Treasury of the East India Company, in obedience to your Lordships commands, beg leave to lay before your Lordships a more particular state and explanation of the propositions delivered in by them to your Lordships, dated the 6th of February instant.

1st, By the word *annexed* was meant, that the possession of the late acquisitions and revenues, mentioned in the proposition, should be declared to remain in the Company for the term they have at present in their exclusive trade, and during the additional term applied for.

2d, It is impossible to ascertain the amount of the civil and military establishments in India, which must be different in peace and

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war,

war, and will be affected by various other circumstances; but it is proposed, that the amount of those expences shall be adjusted by an account thereof, yearly transmitted by each presidency where they incurred.

3d, The sum proposed to be deducted annually for contingent payments, is the interest of the Company's bond debts, with a deduction of five per cent. on the sales, for payment of the warehouse rent, landing, weighing, housing, and delivering goods, wages, wear and tear of the Company's own vessels, pensions to seamens widows, and other charges of Poplar hospital, charges of raising, maintaining and transporting troops to India, building and repairs, and other charges of management and incidental expences.

4th, The sum, or proportion proposed to be allowed to the Proprietors for profits of trade, is a deduction, in the first instance, of a sum equal to the dividend, payable to the Proprietors. The other necessary purposes (after deduction from the sales of freights, demurrage, commission to supercargoes, government duties,) are the prime cost of the Company's investments to India, and a provision for payment of such bills of exchange as shall be drawn from thence for monies paid into the Company's Treasuries there, which will be returned in investments. These two last-mentioned particulars the Committee apprehend cannot be ascertained, as they depend on the increase of trade, and other contingencies, and therefore must be adjusted by annual accounts to be delivered in.

5th, The sum thought necessary to be borrowed, beyond the five hundred thousand pounds, mentioned in the proposition, is what will be sufficient to pay off the simple contract creditors of the Company, who are pressing for their money, which it is supposed, may be nearly one million.



